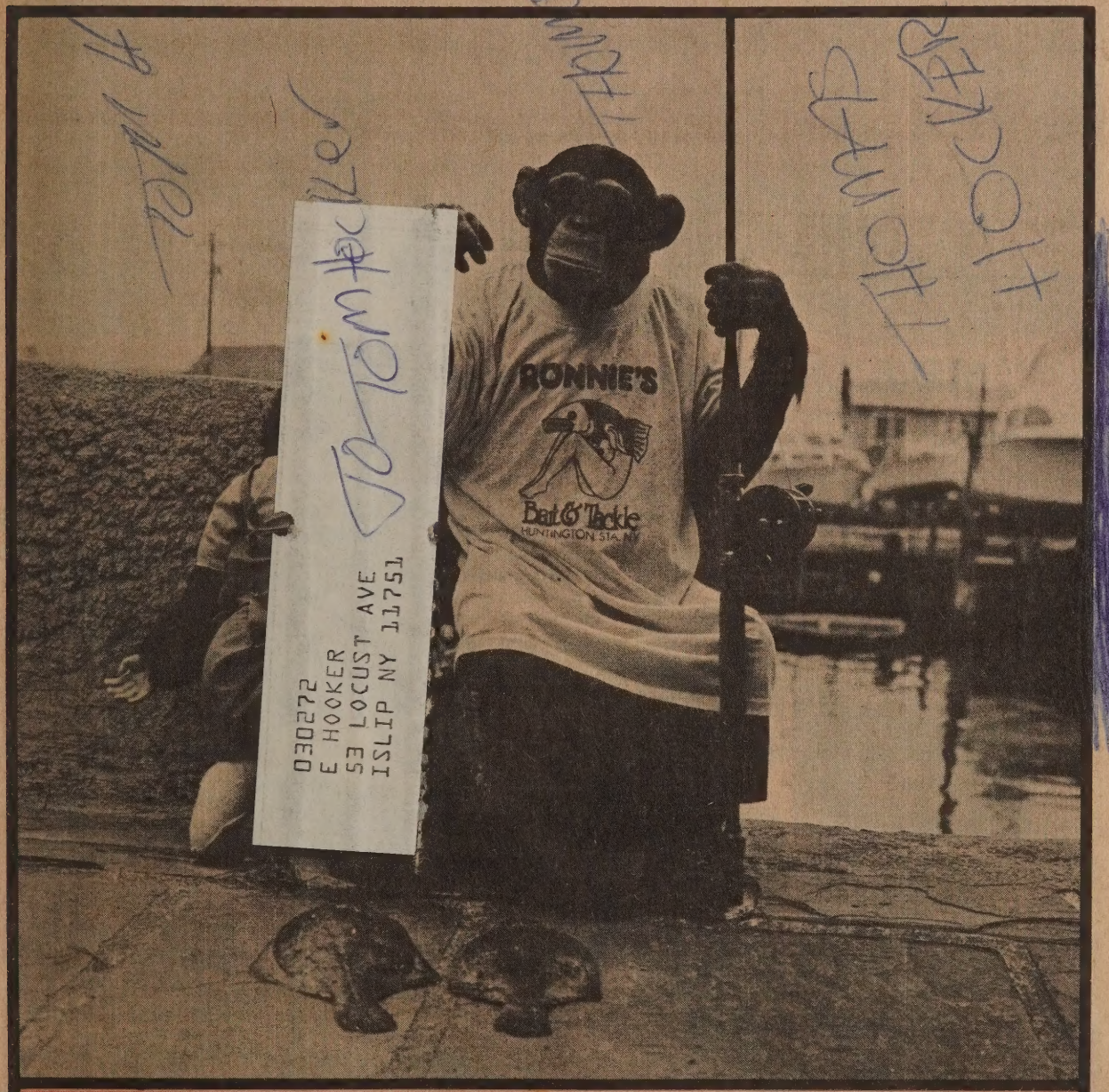
The Long Island FISHERMAN

50¢

The Largest Weekly Fishing Magazine in the United States!

OCTOBER 19th, 1978 ★ Volume 13, Number 42 ★ *13th Year of Publishing* ★ FIFTY-CENTS



SHEEPSHEAD BAY BLUES

"Believe me, my young friends" said the Water Rat solemnly, "There is nothing...absolutely nothing...half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats,...Simply messing,...

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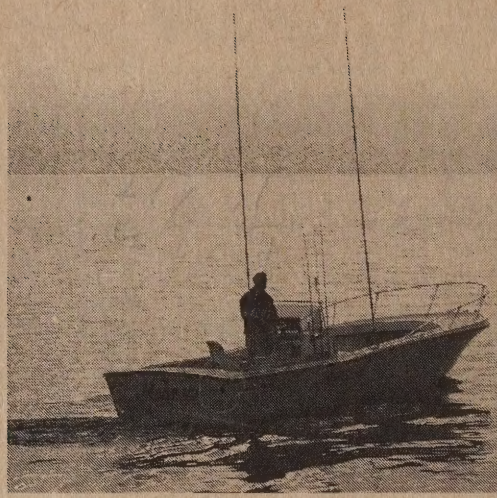
The wind in the willows.
KENNETH GRAHAME 1908



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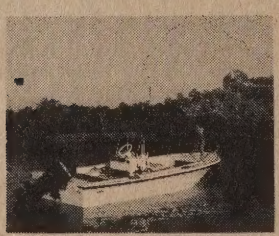

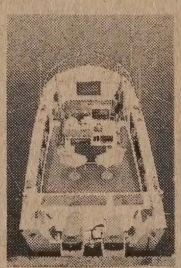

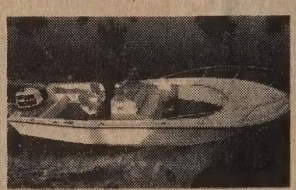

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

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COMING NEXT WEEK:

SOUTH SHORE BLACKS

About the Cover—

Zippy **the chimp took these two nice flounder on sandworms in Freeport. Flounder fishing has been poor to excellent, depending on where you fish on the Island. See the fishing reports starting on page 22.** ***Photo courtesy of Ronnie's Bait & Tackle, Huntington***

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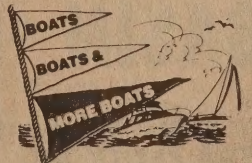

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★ EDITORIAL ★

New Look at the Long Island State Park Commission

It's no secret that there have been times over the years when surf fishermen and the Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission have not seen eye-to-eye. We won't go into the details of past problems since unearthing dead bodies seldom has any value, especially when the causes of death are no longer active. However, in the last few years a tide of change has swept the Commission. A good deal of the credit for this new look has to go to General Manager of Parks and Recreation, Mr. John Sheridan, who took control of this operation four years ago, and to Mr. Robert Ott who is Superintendent for all the parks and to whom all the individual park superintendents report. Together this team has made Parks and Recreation more responsive to the people, improved the lines of communication, improved surf fishing access, and provided a sincere and willing ear to the ideas and requests of surf fishermen.

There have, of course, been a few problems, slip-ups, and what have you; but then we are people and not super-human saints. And after all, fishermen haven't been perfect either. We have disobeyed a few rules—perhaps not collectively, but individually. We mention this not to get down on our family, but simply to show that anybody can make mistakes. Messrs. Sheridan and Ott have not interpreted a few fishermen-originated problems as a sign that all surf fishermen are bad and surf fishermen likewise should not expect perfection out of the Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission. As long as people are willing to learn, listen, and work to improve an organization, situation, or circumstance, we will constantly move closer to perfection and the slow improvements will be enjoyed by all.

Parks and Recreation does not cater to surf fishermen only. The parks are multiple-user facilities and because of this, all interested groups must be queried about their concerns and opinions. The Volunteer Beach Patrol is one such example of how concerns, originating with a user group, have been listened to and digested by Messrs. Sheridan and Ott, and a tangible result achieved. The first year of the Volunteer Beach Patrol has been a valuable experience and has improved the overall surveillance on the beach. It had few, if any, earth-shaking contributions to make, but it was an honest and serious step foward towards bringing park users and administrators closer together, promoting a better understanding of the others' problems and points of view, and improving safety on the beach.

On Tuesday, October 3, 1978, **The Long Island Fisherman** was present at a well-attended meeting convened by Parks and Recreation to discuss park development. It was clear that Messrs. Sheridan and Ott were well tuned to the climate of the room and gauged accurately that most people were concerned about the proper use of the parks; making it possible for the enjoyment of the parks without undue damage to the environment. The reason for the meeting was not to **tell** the people what the Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission was going to do, but rather to **ask** representatives of various concerned user groups how they thought development and management should proceed. What a change over past practices when one would wake up to read in the newspapers how various park plans would be implemented.

And it isn't just the big things like asking how to manage the parks, but the little things too. For example, how nice it is to have a phone call returned, instead of ignored. How nice it is to see evidence that an inquiry or request is followed up and that a reasonable answer is given based upon fact and evidence, instead of convenience. At a meeting of representatives from surf fishing clubs and organizations last winter, it was reassuring to hear from Mr. Sheridan that Parks and Recreation realize how surf fishing access has dwindled and how they were committed to preserving access, not eliminating it.

The development and use of our parks is a double-edged sword since it carries responsibility as well as privilege. Parks and Recreation has attempted to maintain access in the face of shrinking budgets for park security and maintenance and it has been good that surf fishermen have been willing to offer to shoulder some of the responsibility for "self-policing." But responsibility goes beyond the willingness of some to clean the beaches and patrol the beaches. Taking litter home with you or being certain to deposit it in proper receptacles is a very important way in which we can help, and so is

(Continued on page 38.)

BOATING

CONTINUOUS SAFE BOATING COURSE

A new concept on adult Boating Safety Education is being offered at Nassau County's Cow Meadow Park, Freeport, N.Y. on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 10PM.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary qualified instructors are teaching the boating skills and safety course on a continuing year-round basis. A student may enter the 8-week course at any lesson without waiting for a new course to begin.

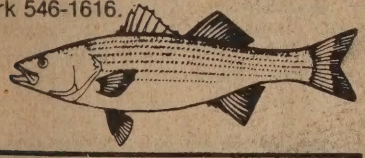
Students will participate in knot tying, making dock lines fast to cleats and poles, actual course plotting with instruments, chart reading, anchoring, identification of buoys and lights, safe fueling practices and suggestions on boat handling in heavy weather and fog.

Many training aids such as VHF and CB radios, fire extinguishers, anchors, life jackets and compasses will be used and made available for inspection and discussion.

Official movies and slides will be shown at most class sessions with instructors and proctors standing by to answer questions.

This comprehensive course is given free of charge by the U.S.C.G. Auxiliary. Student textbooks, charts and basic instruments are available at modest cost. Sponsored by USCG Aux. Flotilla 13-6.

For additional information contact: Jerry Schnur, FSO/PE, Day 799-3928; Eves 796-0842, or Cow Meadow Park 546-1616.



Contests & Tournaments

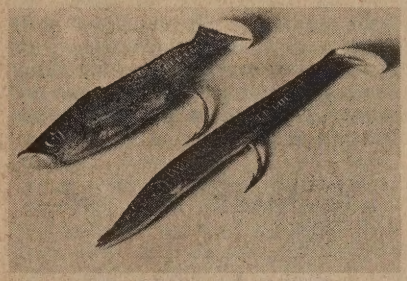
EAST BAY ANGLERS CHILLER TOURNAMENT

The 12th annual Chiller Codfish Tournament presented by the East Bay Anglers, Inc., will be held Saturday, November 11, 1978. Alternates dates for the Tournament will be Sun., Nov. 12 or Sat., Nov. 18, 1978.

The Captain's meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m., Wednesday November 8 at the Salty Bay Y.C., 180 West Side Avenue, Freeport, N.Y. 11520.

For further information, contact: East Bay Anglers, Inc., c/o Lan Luzi, 157 Cow Neck Road, Port Washington, N.Y. 11050, (516) 767-9530.

New Products



NEW FROM BLUE FOX

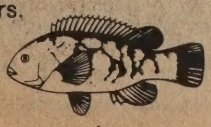
The RED GILL, fastest selling soft-bodied swimming lure in western Europe and the British Isles, is now being distributed throughout North America by Blue Fox Tackle Co.

Anglers on the West Coast of the U.S. have demonstrated that the Red Gill is lethal for salmon and now East Coast fishermen have shown it to be equally effective for a variety of species in their waters.

New York and New Jersey anglers have had excellent results with the Sand Eel when used in number on the popular umbrella rig when trolling. Rigged with very short wire leaders and a barrel swivel for teasers and a single Sand Eel on a longer two to three foot leader as the drop back in the center of the rig have shown to be deadly on stripers and blues. Since the Sand Eel is designed to perfectly resemble the northeast's most common bait fish, which the umbrella rig was designed to imitate, it stands to reason that together they can't miss.

For casting or jigging the Sand Eel can be rigged in a variety of ways. The simplest is to run a wire or heavy mono leader through the body of the lure and tie it to the hook and add a barrel swivel at the opposite end. Before tying it to your line, slip on the appropriate weight slip sinker for the depth you are fishing. This works well for weakfish—especially the "Tide-runners" taken during the spring months. In this fashion, the Sand Eel can also be used for bluefish and school stripers. The other common rig is similar to the slip sinker rig, but employs the use of a three-way swivel and larger bank sinker in place of the barrel swivel. This makes the lure easier to use at greater depths when jigging for pollack.

The RED GILL Sand Eel's seemingly universal success lies in the lure's exclusive features; a patented air chamber and the compensating tail, which keep it straight and level in the water giving it a lifelike true swimming action. It is available in four colors.



Pass It On...

NEW YORK SPORTFISHING COUNCIL NEWS

The Officers and Board of Directors of The New York Sportfishing Council had a brief meeting after the summer recess. This meeting was held mainly to start the Council on the Fall and Winter programs. Many of the proposed bills (for example, the Weakfish Bill) have to be reinstated with the new Congress; so there is much hard work ahead for the Council.

In addition, a new slate of officers and representatives has to be presented for the coming session. Thus, a General Meeting of all members and concerned fishermen has been set for Tuesday, October 24, at 7:30 p.m., at the West Hills Elementary School, South Huntington School District. The school is located at the end of Weston Street, which is on the west side of Route 110, across from the Walt Whitman Mall. There is a G. Fried carpet store on this intersection, which is between Jericho Turnpike and Northern State Parkway.

This meeting will be followed by the election of officers at the November 27 meeting, at the same location.

An invitation is extended to all members and anyone interested in joining the organization, to attend these meetings. If any person or group has a problem or complaint that is related to the fishing interest, we welcome their comments at these meetings.

The fishermen of New York have finally united to protect their interests and to assure that the resources and industry are properly governed. The larger the membership, the greater the force we can exert to gain these goals. SO FISHERMEN, DON'T LET YOURSELVES DOWN—COME TO THE MEETING.

For any further information about the Council, call George Gerhold, at (516) 431-9167 after 6PM and weekends, or (516) 676-4000, Ext. 329 during working hours.

CHUM LINES

RESPONSE TO IRA FELDMAN LETTER: PRO

I couldn't agree more with Mr. Ira Feldman. After reading the account of the great bass slaughter at Montauk, I got a quiver in my gut. I could visualize the mounds of silvery bass gasping their last breath and in their bellies were millions of eggs which

would never see the light of day in the Chesapeake or any other spawning area for that matter.

I have been a "sport" fisherman for some fifty-odd years and I must say that story really made me wonder about the use of the word "sport" in conjunction with the slaughter of those "cow bass."

This story reminds me of some of the tales I have read about the buffalo hunts that took place on the Western Prairies, and we all know what happened to the buffalo.

In a recent issue of "National Fisherman," there was an article about the tremendous decline in the striped bass population and the fact that all of the fishermen in the Chesapeake were finally getting organized and were prepared for drastic measures in order to stop the decline. I am sure they would not have gotten much of a kick out of the account emanating from Montauk. It only emphasizes the gross wastage of a very important natural resource.

I'm sure that, as Mr. Feldman points out, many of those giant cows ended up as cat food or even worse, lying on a garbage heap and covered by a mass of blowing flies.

I still remember a fishing trip some years ago. I caught a magnificent bass on a plug and I was very excited and happy with my catch, but when I got home and started to clean the fish, I was struck with remorse when I saw the two glistening egg sacs bulging with thousands of golden eggs. I have still to this day regretted the killing of that roe-laden female bass. **Herbert R. Broderick, Westhampton Beach, New York.**

It should be pointed out that with all the problems that have hindered the striped bass population, overfishing by Chesapeake Bay fishermen undoubtedly heads the list. Should they now be commended for closing the barn door? At the 1978 average market price of over $2 a pound, it is extremely unlikely, if not ridiculous, to think that a single fish was used for cat food, much less put in a garbage heap. Don't be upset about the female bass you "killed," because it takes a very small number of females to produce enough eggs to create a good year class of striped bass. The major problem in Chesapeake Bay, it seems, has been the overfishing of the smaller male bass. We have plenty of egg-laden females, but not enough willing males to accommodate them. **Scott S.**

RESPONSE TO IRA FELDMAN LETTER: CON

This letter is an answer to that guy Ira Feldman, who wants to know what you do with fifty pounds of bass. I am not a person who fishes, but my husband of ten years, who fishes whenever he has a free minute, has taught me enough that I can give this guy his answer. What we do with fifty pounds of bass is, first—it takes know-how to catch bass. I know it takes real skill and when you do catch a 50-40-30 pound bass, you're thrilled to death. And believe me, **no cats get that**. My family eats it, and what can't be eaten, gets wrapped up and frozen for another day. And besides that, when my husband was out of work, he made his living fishing. Bass put shoes and clothes on my kids backs, and it was bought and eaten by people—not by cats. That saved the government money because we did not have to go on welfare. Does that answer your question? I could tell you plenty more; I'm sure many other wives could, too. If I were you, I wouldn't worry too much about the American man fishing and taking fish out of the water. They deserve them, before the foreigners clean us out. You should worry more about what **they** do with all the fish they take. **L.R., Bklyn., NY.**

An interesting point that has rarely been discussed: the number of fishermen who support a fishing boat that would otherwise be out of their reach economically. If a ban for selling fish were ever put into effect, I wonder what the economic impact would be on the boating industry on Long Island ... substantial, I would suspect after talking with many boat owners and sellers. **Scott S.**

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Poor Turnouts at FMP Hearings

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's public hearings on the fishery management plans for mackerel, squid, and butterfish were very poorly attended. The September 26 meeting in Cape May drew a "crowd" of two; while the September 27 hearing in Asbury Park did a little better with about a dozen. The Long Island hearing (at the Holiday Inn in Centereach on September 28) attracted only a few people who weren't directly associated with the Council or Government agencies. The only real controversy occurred at Asbury Park, where the New Jersey Boatmen's Association vigorously opposed the mandatory reporting requirements in the plans for party and charter boats. They feel that the Council will get more accurate information on a voluntary basis—though our experience to date has not supported that claim. If there is any similar opposition in New York, it wasn't expressed at the public hearing.

Most of the comments at the Long Island meeting came from commercial representative Rich Miller. Rich had a legitimate beef about re-allocation before mid-year, of squid and butterfish to the foreign fleets. Under these management plans, U.S. fishermen are given allocations well in excess of their historical catches, in hopes that they will develop the markets for species that are readily available and highly valued overseas. So far they have not done so, and the preliminary management plans that have governed the fisheries to this point have provided for mid-year re-allocations to the foreign fleets of a portion of the uncaught U.S. quota. As Rich pointed out, early re-allocations aren't fair to American fishermen as they are just starting to take their catch when that decision is being made. The foreign fleets catch Loligo squid in deep water during the winter; while our fleet works on that species when it migrates inshore in the spring and summer. The same applies to butterfish. A possible solution to this problem involves changing the fishing year. Under this system, the year could start in the spring and a re-allocation made in late fall after most of the American catch was made. American fishermen are entitled to the entire catch if they can make it, but the mechanics of the planning process actually excludes them from that right should they suddenly develop both the market and capability to do it. The surplus allocated to the foreign fleets is actually sold to them before the fishing season, and there is no mechanism for taking it back. It's only a matter of time before American fishermen will be taking all of the surplus available. Most foreign countries now realize that it will be cheaper to let Americans make the catch under contract, and either ship it overseas, or land it directly aboard a foreign processing vessel under a joint venture agreement. Already there is talk of an Italian offer of $1.22 a pound for top quality squid. With prices like that available, it won't be long before an American squid fleet develops!

Poor attendance at Council public hearings has been a problem we've been trying to deal with as long as we've been in business. It seems that only highly controversial subjects will attract a crowd. When Commerce proposed giving the foreign fleets quotas on a badly depleted mackerel resource, we were able to get a big turnout to protest that error. Now that the Council has this situation under control, there seems to be little interest in just what we're doing. Perhaps the hearing locations have something to do with the poor turnouts? If you have any suggestions, I'd be happy to hear them!

American League of Anglers Auction Looks Like a Winner!

The annual American League of Anglers' drawing and auction sale for the benefit of the ALA Education and Research Foundation will be held on November 1 at the Explorer's Club, 46 East 70th Street, New York, N.Y., from 5:30-10:30 p.m. Admission is by invitation only and includes a picnic dinner and all beverages. The cost of a ticket is $20, and seating is limited to 175. There are a host of outstanding items to be auctioned, including exotic trips (such as five days at Deep Water Cay, Bahamas, with famed author Al McClane as your guide); many original works of angling art, and both new and antique tackle. In addition, there will be a drawing for a host of other valuable gifts. Once again there are trips to such places as Costa Rica, Panama, and Bimini; as well as guided trout fishing in both the east and west. Topping the list is a twenty foot HydraSport valued at $8000! Anyone interested in receiving an invitation to the auction should drop me a line at my home address—2 Vermont Court, Lake Hiawatha, N.J. 07034. It's not necessary to be at the auction to be eligible for the drawing. Any angler wishing to make a contribution to the ALA Education and Research Foundation can get in touch with me at the same address for further details. The American League of Anglers is providing a voice for sport fishermen in Washington. It needs your support!

Bill Gordon Reassigned to Washington

Despite protestations from the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils, NMFS Northeast Director, Bill Gordon has been reassigned to Washington. Bill's new job will be as head of the Resource and Conservation Office of the reorganized National Marine Fisheries Service. I understand that he will be in charge of all management plans in that position. Bill, a voting member of both Councils, worked very well with the members and was universally respected for both his knowledge of the fisheries and his attempts to work out reasonable compromises on sensitive subjects. While we often differed on various matters, Bill has always had our respect, and we wish him well in his new position.

Sport Fishermen Well Represented on Most Councils

The latest round of appointments to the various regional councils didn't affect sport fishing representation greatly. However, with the exception of New England, all Eastern Councils already had good input from angling representatives. Even in New England anglers have gotten a fair shake so far, and there is no reason to suspect that will change under the leadership of Al Peterson, Marine Fisheries Chief in Massachusetts. Al paid his way through school catching stripers and blues on rod and reel, and is very close to the sportsmen in his state. Ben Hardesty and Trudy Bernhard were both reappointed to the South Atlantic Council, and Ben (a VP with Shakespeare in South Carolina) will be chairman this year. We were sorry to see Capt. Tom Clark, of Orange Beach, Alabama, lose his seat on the Gulf Council, but the Secretary of Commerce apparently felt that Louisiana deserved another seat. Fortunately, she appointed a very capable candidate, Bethlyn McCloskey, of Metairie, Louisiana. Bethlyn is a well-known environmentalist and sportswoman. While sportsmen have no complaints about their treatment in the East so far, there's a lot of noise on the West Coast. Southern California anglers are particularly upset with the lack of representation on that council, and were infuriated by the failure of Governor Jerry Brown to even submit any nominations from the State this year.

While all Mid-Atlantic Council members were reappointed, we may have gained a new sportswoman. Nancy Goell, who capably chaired the Centereach hearing, reported that she had been fishing on Shagwong Reef

(Continued on page 21.)

FISH TALK

with Dr. William A. Muller

How They Hit!

★PART ONE★

JUST IMAGINE! It's a quiet night and the tidal current begins to push to sea with the ebbing tide. A large female bass lies behind a submerged boulder barely beating her tail in order to stem the tide. All of her senses are primed. Her brain concentrates on every last bit of data that her senses collect. The lateral line along her sides registers vibrations coming from many directions: the outboard motor several miles away; the surge of the water against the rocks and shells, and the sound of the gently rolling surf against the beach. The great fish's experience tells her that these vibrations and sounds are part of the surroundings—they do not mean food is near. She is hungry and is ready to pounce on the first living thing that wanders by. Her eyes bug out as she searches the inky blackness for signs of motion, and her sense of smell is ever-vigilant to various types of bait that might be in the area.

READY TO MOVE. Her senses pick up nothing, so she is ready to move up-current where there may be more to eat. She will follow the behavior that has been established over thousands of generations and she will work up and down the current until she finds food. Suddenly, she picks up the throbbing, swimming action of a large bait fish. It is moving towards her because the vibrations are getting stronger. The fish is not coming straight downside. It is swinging in towards her from deeper water: it is trying to struggle against the tide, but it is not succeeding! Perhaps it is injured or old or weak, but in its valiant attempts to swim up-tide, the current is forcing it towards the beach. The eyes of the great bass turn to look in the direction of the vibrations, searching and probing the murky water for signs of the prey. The bass moves out from behind the rock so that her attack will not be hindered by it. Suddenly, she see it—not ten feet away swinging towards her. The bass waits almost motionless and then the prey is in front of her nose, barely a foot away. The bait fish senses the bass and spurts forward; but at that exact moment the bass, keeping her gill covers tightly closed for a split second, opens her cavernous mouth and the bait fish is sucked in. The powerful jaw muscles clamp down hard and the tough bone of her jaws is like a vise on the prey. The force crushes the small fish, killing it and she again gulps inward. This time, the fish moves deep into her throat where she can swallow it.

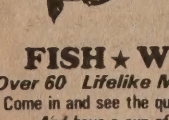
HAVE YOU EVER HAD A LIGHT HIT? If a predator fish is hitting its prey in such a manner, it may explain light hits, especially with light monofilament lines. Predators that feed at night often attack in just this way and even the greatest of Neptune's monsters may reveal themselves with only the smallest taps. In the day, the predator can see farther and the sense of sight may play the dominant role in the attack. Surprisingly, even bluefish will "bump" you during the night hours.

DREAM TWO! The tide has started to move and the clouds of sand eels also begin to move. The skinny baits may form dense schools in order to muster at least some defense against predators, but they cannot fight the tides. Inevitably, some blues find the squirmy baits and charge into the school. The small bait fish begin scattering in all directions and because the bait is both small and so numerous, the predators are not able to single out individuals to attack. They begin through the schools with their mouths open and when a fish hits their mouths, they chomp down. The speed of the attack may be very frantic and for fishermen attempting to catch these blues, the hits may be titanic since the blues hit the lures going "flat out."

DREAM THREE! Again, the blues are feeding; but this time, the target is bunker, mackerel, or herring. It is daytime. The blues will feed by sight and they will dash here and there—try to run down and chop up the bait fish. The bait have their own set of defenses to all of this madness and they may dive for the bottom, dart from side-to-side, or rise towards the surface and jump clear of the surface. At times, these tactics are successful, and the blue losing sight of its target, may give up on it and begin to chase still another prey target. However, at times the blue may follow the prey out of the water, catching it there or land on it when the two hit the water. On the other hand, the blue may follow the jumping bait fish and hit it when it lands. The fisherman throwing a popping plug into this activity, discovers that a blue may hit several times before latching on due to a combination of a reckless attack and the speed of the retrieve. A slow retrieve may entice few takers because the prey and predators are engaged in a frantic struggle that has its roots in the primal seas. When the blue does succeed in hanging onto a hook, the strike is tumultuous. The force of the strike is a result of the force of the attack. The blue is not only swimming rapidly in order to catch its prey, it also turns to the side at the moment of the attack in order to stop the prey cold in its tracks. Thus, if the bait is chopped in half, the blue can quickly turn and pick up the missed scrap. The speed and commotion of a working popping plug sets the stage for a hard hit and a savage fight. Perhaps that's why taking fish on surface artificials during daylight hours is so appealing to so many fishermen.

DREAM FOUR! It's September and the mullet are running out of the South Shore inlets. The first good cold front usually starts the process. The north winds, furthermore, that follow the passage of the cold front will make the water rough some distance off the beach, but the trough between the beach and the offshore bar will be quiet. The north winds will blow over the dunes and have only a minor effect on the surf zone. There is likely to be, however, a good surf with plenty of white water. Such conditions will exist the first day after the passage of the front, but persistent north winds will quiet the surf. It is during that initial period, however when the stage is set for the attack of the predators. The mullet will likely run along the beach in the trough and the drop of several degrees in the water temperature that characteristically occurs at this time of year will have the bass charged up. The bass prowl the outer edge of the offshore bar and suddenly a group of several hundred bass of mixed sizes (also characteristic of these circumstances) discovers the mullet. They charge over the bar into the trough and the mullet begin to form tight schools. But the bass push them close to the beach and the bait fish begin to scatter swimming rapidly up and down in the trough. The white water in the surf zone helps the predator, because the prey can't see the bass until they are eye-to-eye. The bass are not waiting for the bait to come to them. They are swimming quickly through the trough attacking viciously, and chasing down the prey. The fishermen on the beach throw popping plugs out over the wash; perhaps some of them throw

Taxidermy!



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broad tins. In all cases, however, they retrieve quickly since a slow retrieve will usually go unnoticed. All of the participants of this play are swimming hard; thus a lure that is retrieved slowly will make about as much impression as a floating piece of driftwood. The fishermen that match both the size of the prey with their lures and the spirit of the blitz with their retrieves will score. The attacks are hard on the plugs and tins because the bass are moving too and run down the prey. When they hit, they too, will turn and swim off after the next mullet. Thus, the vicious hit is followed by a quick strong run.

DREAM FIVE! It is early spring and the weakfish are one of the first predators to arrive inshore. There are shrimp for them to eat, but the water is cold. They are reluctant to chase spearing, bunker or mackerel now. The blood is thick and the muscles sluggish. They move along rich bottom and here and there they will suck in a shrimp, nose down, one by one. This kind of feeding pattern does little to enhance the fish's image as a game fish, but it is successful and the species survives. The fishermen probe the bottom with plastic shrimp, plastic worms, bucktails, and jigs of countless names and descriptions. They feel no "bump," as with night feeding predators that suck in their victims. The angler feels only weight and he may mistake this for seaweed. If he strikes back before the fish can sense that he has picked up something unnatural, the fisherman may be shocked to find himself tied to his first weak of the year.

MATCH THE HATCH IS MORE THAN A SAYING! Whether it's a bump, a strike, a hit, or tap, these words describe the sensations at the reel end of the line when a predator makes its move. Perhaps tuna and marlin attack ferociously each and every time, but our beloved inshore species are varied in their styles and their adaptations. Does a bass hit from below? Yes, a bass may hit from below when the circumstances call for it; but a bass may resemble a bluefish when chasing mullet in the surf and a blackfish when it sucks mussels and crabs out of a rock pile. Does a bluefish always run down its prey? "Always" is the word that we have trouble with. Many times a blue will run down its prey, but there are times when blues are slow and clever and then there are times when a blue will grub around on the bottom in a most uncharacteristic, but rewarding manner. Does a weakfish hit with the speed of an express train? Sometimes, but not always. When the water is cold, the weak moves with deliberateness, but catch them in July and August and they'll live up to their reputations.

Next week—How they hit on rigged baits.

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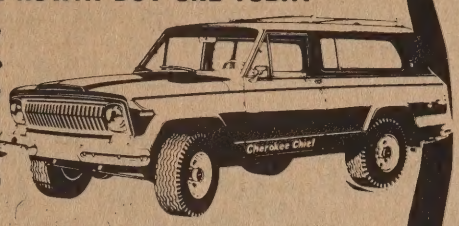

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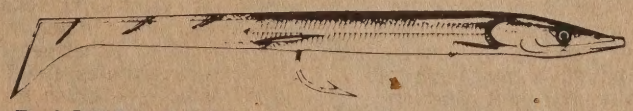

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THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) WHEN TROLLING FAST FOR TUNA, BONITO, DOLPHIN ETC. WITH YOUR LURES JUST BACK IN THE WAKE, YOU WILL NOT CATCH BLUEFISH, OR SO I WAS TOLD BY THE OFFSHORE EXPERTS.

TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

ANSWERS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(2) IS THERE ANY WAY THAT COLLECTORS WHO PRESERVE FISH, USALLY IN ALCOHOL, CAN FIND A SOLUTION TO RETAIN THE COLOR OF THEIR SPECIMENS?

(3) SEA GULLS CAN DRINK EITHER FRESH OR SALTWATER.

TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

(4) HOW FAST CAN A WAHOO SWIM ?

27 MPH ☐
37 MPH ☐
47 MPH ☐

(5) GAME SPECIES MORTALITY IS HIGH WHETHER THEY ARE HUNTED OR NOT.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

(6) WHAT COLOR PLASTIC WORM IS MOST EFFECTIVE ACCORDING TO NATIONAL SALES TO FISHERMEN WHO PRESUMABLY ARE CATCHING FISH ?

1 - FALSE. THE CHOPPERS WILL CHEW UP YOUR MOST EXPENSIVE KONA HEADS AND CEDAR JIGS. 2 - NO SOLUTION IS PERMANENT EXCEPT PHOTOGRAPHY. 3 - TRUE. SPECIAL GLANDS IN THEIR HEADS REMOVE THE SALT FROM THEIR BLOOD. 4 - 37 MPH. 5 - TRUE. ONLY 40% OF PHEASANTS, 30% OF QUAIL AND 10% OF RABBITS SURVIVE. 6 - PURPLE, BLUE, BLACK, RED AND AMBER IN THAT ORDER.

Surf Side with Vito Orlando

THE BIRDS OF AUTUMN

It was mid-October, as John Fritz and I impatiently waited on a stretch of beach on Montauk's south side. As our eyes scanned the clear blue sky for telltale signs of diving gulls (therefore, feeding bluefish), I made mention that they were here yesterday and there had been no drastic change in the weather, so it shouldn't be long now. Another ten minutes would pass before we would see the first signs of feeding bluefish. About a half mile to the west of us the sky was darkened by a legion of screaming, diving birds. Riding down the beach, we were soon at the location of the feast. The birds were in a frenzy when we arrived, and dove at the water as the bluefish splashed and rampaged through the multitudes of small bait fish. The tiny anchovies swam onto the beach trying to escape the onslaught. On our first casts we were both hooked up, and soon a pair of eight pound blues decorated the fish box. Our second casts were met with equal opposition and now we had four nice blues to our credit. Our next few casts went unrewarded as the bait, the bluefish, and consequently, the diving gulls moved westward down the beach. We ran to the buggy and gave chase, only this time driving past the school of fish. Since we had experienced this type of behavior before, we knew that by driving 100 feet or so past the marauding blues and then waiting for them to come to us, we would be able to make a few more casts into the school, before having to move again. This practice of chasing the birds and the bluefish is not uncommon to the south side of Montauk during the fall migration of fish.

As the husky blues moved closer to us, we began casting and were soon hooked up to two more nice choppers. We continued this technique of making a few casts into the school of moving fish—either catching or dropping a fish or two—and then once again rushing down the beach past the moving blues, and then anxiously awaiting their arrival.

When the action finally let up some three hours later, we had nine big bluefish in the box and had released many others. We had also driven six miles from our original starting position, and had come off the beach in the Town of Amagansett.

As hinted before in this article, the accounts of this incident are by no means a once in a lifetime happening. Each year, I and many other Montauk regulars experience the same type of fishing with only a slight variation. For some reason that I don't understand, the bait—and then, of course, the blues and the birds—will move in an easterly direction up the beach and not in a westerly direction, as Fritz and I found that day.

In October, 1976, we were again scoring on large bluefish from the south side waters. This time, however, the school of fish would make-up every morning at Hither Hills and then move eastward, toward Ditch Plains. As with the other occasion, the birds again signaled us that it was time to start fishing, as they performed their daily ritual of diving and screaming over the schools of anchovies and sand eels that were driven into a frenzy by the big blues. Using the same system described above, we chased the fish to the bluffs just before Ditch Plain, to an area called the Indians. At that time, we could not drive around the rocks at high water—so back to the hard-top and on to the Plains. However, by the time we arrived, the fishing was finished for the day; but we had taken a few fish along the beach.

The majority of times the birds make-up on the south side during autumn will be over schools of bluefish. There are times, though, that large schools of either bass or weakfish will be under these birds. Regardless of the species of fish that are attacking the bait, one thing remains certain: all that is needed to catch a few is to be there. One way to stay on top of the action is to stop in at Kronich's Tackle Store located on the main street in the Town of Montauk. John is an ardent surf fisherman and is always willing to give firsthand information as to what is happening on the beach.

Once at the scene of the action you need only cast one or two types of plugs. A popping plug such as a Polaris or Striper Swiper and a tin or metal lure, such as the Hopkins, is all that's required.

Since you will be confronted by mostly bluefish, these toothy creatures will take their toll in tackle. It is recommended that you carry spare plugs in your quest for these fish so as not to be left out in the cold should you lose one or two of your lures. There is a way to help reduce your loss of tackle. I like to use two to three feet of fifty to sixty pound test monofilament leader. Some anglers use about eighteen inches of wire leader to help protect their expensive plugs. I prefer the monofilament because there may be some bass under these bluefish and I feel that the wire may frighten them.

One day a few years ago, I took four striped bass using a monofilament leader while casting to breaking bluefish. Another angler also using a monofilament leader took three nice bass, while my two fishing partners—both using a wire leader—took only bluefish.

Whether you use mono or wire as a leader, one thing to keep in mind is not to try to horse these bruisers onto the beach. Many lines are parted as unsuspecting anglers in their excitement try to pull these blues out of the water. Your drag should be set just below the breaking point of your line and then backed off one or two turns. A drag set in this fashion will be sufficient to beat even the most fearsome bluefish. As the fish comes into the wash, turn your rod parallel to the beach and slide the fish onto the sands with the incoming wave. There is a strong undertow here; so either gaff your fish or grab the leader and drag it to higher ground if you plan to release it.

There are certain items which will come in handy on this beach. A pair of waders should be worn; however, a foul weather top is not necessarily important unless, of course, it is raining. A pair of pliers should be carried to help you take those treble hooks from the powerful razor-like teeth of the bluefish. This brings us to another important item. I have in my surf bag, certain popping plugs and tins which I have equipped with single hooks only. They are especially handy when bluefishing, as the fish can quickly be unhooked without too much difficulty. Another reason for doing this is to protect my hooks equipped with bucktails. Nothing will dismantle a bucktail

(Continued on page 13.)

Vito Orlando and four bluefish from 7 to 10-pounds taken on Montauk's south side beaches during the fall of 1972.

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

Fall Blackfish: OFFSHORE

Last week we discussed inshore fall blackfishing. And as promised, this week's column will take up the pursuit of old chisel-tooth on the offshore grounds. I might have squeezed both types of fishing in one article by just hitting the high spots; but while similarities in the fishing exist—such as riggings and bait—there are enough differences between both methods to warrant an additional column. Because I was practically brought up on party boat fishing, inshore angling for rough and tumble blackfish doesn't appeal to me in the same manner as does offshore sinker bouncing. And too, the average blackfish caught in the deeper offshore areas are usually larger than those caught inshore. I know there will be fishermen who will argue with that, but I can only tell you of my personal experiences. I have caught blackfish to eight pounds in the Peconics, and I know larger ones are often caught throughout this excellent fishing area, but few top the fourteen pounder I nailed on the rocky bottom off Seabright, New Jersey in the long ago. Since then I've taken several ten and twelve pounders on various wrecks and banks in the New York Bight, but most have been between two and five pounds; which really isn't bad fishing when you come right down to it. Sure, I've caught scads of one and two pounders in the same area. In fact, before I saw the error of my ways, that was about all I could catch.

What was responsible for the sudden change from those one and two pounders to larger fish and an occasional bulldog? I'd like to tell you it was my own doing—but that would be far from the truth. Oh, I had the desire to catch those bigger fish, all right. But I'll tell you right now that when it came to blackfishing, I was a pretty dumb kid. Stubborn, too; which is a trait not conducive to good fishing, as any experienced sinker bouncer will tell you.

It is not my intention at this time to repeat how I learned the way to better blackfishing, because space limitations do not permit. But if you are interested, check Page 3 of this issue for information on ordering and request a copy of Issue #37, 1976. Lest you be disappointed, let me say that you won't find the article giving any short cuts or "Open Sesame" routes to fantastic fishing—just a common sense approach to larger fish.

If you've caught other bottom feeders before but never blackfish, be prepared for something totally unexpected. It won't take long to realize that, as a sinker bouncer, you've never come across a fish that is more exasperating. And independent. Boy, is it ever independent! Though scores of blackfish may be feeding just five feet away, you will never get one if your bait isn't in that all-important feeding zone. If there is one thing old chisel-tooth lacks, it is curiosity. It wouldn't care if both your hooks were baited with hermit crab—which is the piece de resistance of all blackfish bait.

If you go blackfishing aboard party boats, especially those that do much wreck fishing, you are very apt to see this peculiar temperament in action. I often sympathize with wreck fishing party boat skippers during blackfishing time. They know if the wreck they intend fishing isn't fully large enough to accommodate both boat and passengers from bow to stern, only a few fortunate fishermen will be catching fish, while others stand by and watch in soul-tearing frustration. Needless to say, this doesn't endear the skipper to his luckless passengers. In the fishing game, specializing in blackfishing can be a tough way to make a living.

I know when I mated on wreck-fishing party boats during fall blackfishing time there were days when, because of full capacity reasons, we could only fish the larger wrecks. That way everyone had an equal chance at the fish. But on days when we had few passengers, we would fish those wrecks whose overall size was too small to offer good fishing for more than a handful. And because these smaller wrecks sustained less fishing pressure, blackfishing was often excellent.

I emphasize the foregoing because I want to make clear just how difficult the pursuit of old chisel-tooth can be for all concerned. It takes a mighty good fisherman—be he party boat skipper or plain garden-variety sinker bouncer—to consistently find and catch blackfish in any appreciable amounts. Blackfish are only plentiful for those who know their stuff.

Were I to begin a blackfishing career today, I would certainly go aboard party boats known to specialize in this fishing. And when I found one that suited me to a T, I would stick with it. You will learn more about blackfish by doing this than you would spending months, possibly years, of trial-and-error on your own. Even the most informative blackfishing article will not give you the knowledge received from a trip or two aboard one of these boats.

The best fishing scribe can only point out the basics of blackfishing. He can tutor as to what, in his opinion, is the proper selection of tackle, baits, and rigging. But blackfishing is an art and finesse is only acquired by doing—and doing again, and again if you wish to excel. There is no other way. All the reading in the world will not help when it comes to the actual catching of blackfish.

That, I believe, is the best way to learn the art of blackfishing. But suppose you don't care for party boats and want to go out on your own and take your chances? In this case, there are some important things you must consider; and one of these is safety. You've got to have a suitable deep-water craft and know something about navigation.

Now, that sounds sensible enough, but I recall one December day on the Cholera Banks when I came across two guys fishing in a sixteen-foot bay skiff! And on a winter ocean yet!

I tell you—it took my breath away. Those guys weren't brave. They were plain damn fools. What they would have done had that soft westerly breeze hauled around suddenly to the east—I don't know.

You can bet I had those guys on my mind all day. No matter how many drops I made in my search for cod, my conscience wouldn't allow me to wander too far off. I'm sure my buddies and I lost out on some good codfishing that day, for there were fish-producing spots I wanted to try that were beyond binocular range of my two errant fishermen.

At day's end, I beat my way back and offered safe passage and a tow for the skiff, but it was refused. I'm certain I caused them embarrassment with my concern for their welfare and refusal was only their way of asserting independence. But they were two very foolish fishermen.

I'm sorry for this digression, but I wanted to tell you how far some eager-beaver fishermen will occasionally go when the fishing is good. The open ocean is no place for foolish fishermen. Never take chances and never trust the sea. That's the best advice anyone can give a budding offshore fisherman.

Okay. Enough of that. Next, you've got to find the fish, and for that you'll need an up-to-date chart of the area you plan to fish. Look for areas marked "rock." That's where you'll find your blackfish. I don't believe there is any point in searching out wrecks, for unless you are extremely lucky, or have someone aboard who knows positions, seeking them on your own will avail you naught. Better to drop over rock-littered ground. Your chances in these places are always good.

If you are a fisherman fortunate enough to be in reach of the Seabright, New Jersey grounds, I'm sure you will have no trouble finding good blackfishing territory. There are isolated areas here that can cause the loss of an anchor due to jam-packed rock; therefore, it is always best to drop the hook in the vicinity of other blackfishing boats until enough experience is gained to avoid these anchor-fouling areas. There aren't many: you may never come across one, but why chance it and perhaps spoil your day.

Now for bait. Fall blackfish will never refuse green

crab, although the fish-catching ability of china-back fiddlers runs a close second. I believe, though, that the largest blacks are caught on green crab. Forget skimmer, or any of the clam baits. Not because these won't work if that's all you have (my fourteen pounder was caught on skimmer), but pesty bait-stealing bergalls will make short work of it. And Seabright and its adjacent areas certainly have their share of bergalls.

Unless the green crab is small, remove the top shell, cut or break off the legs and claws close to the body, and cut into two or more pieces depending upon size. Run a #5 Virginia hook through one of the leg holes and be sure the point and barb are exposed. Green crab are hard and if you leave the business end of the hook hidden inside the bait, it may not penetrate the tough jaws before the highly-suspicious blackfish has a chance to spit it out.

China-backs, on the other hand, are used whole and it is best to remove the large male claw. You can leave the hook hidden if you wish. In fact, I think it best if you do, for the crab will stay alive longer when this is done. China-backs are fragile when compared to green crab and there is never any problem with hook penetration.

You should use a medium-weight conventional rod and matching reel filled with at least 100 yards of twenty pound test mono. Sinkers should be of the bank style and always heavy enough to anchor the bait—possibly five to eight ounces will be needed. Blackfish will rarely go near bait that moves off with the current no matter how tempting it may be. You can probably get by in most rock-strewn areas with two hooks tied tandem-style. If you find your fishing spot to be exceptionally foul-prone, use one hook tied about two inches above the sinker—no hardware! The most important thing to remember is that your hooks must always be on bottom. And don't forget to carry replacement hooks and sinkers. If you aren't being hung up from time to time, you're not fishing in prime blackfish territory.

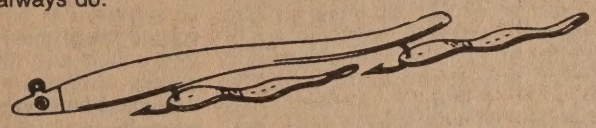
Always wait for a good solid bite before attempting to set the hook. Most blackfish are missed because of failure to do this. Lip-hooked fish mean that you are reacting too soon. Put a brake on your reflexes immediately. Should you miss a fish, reel in and adjust your bait. A frightened blackfish will not return to the same bait unless this is done.

I mentioned at the beginning that blackfish will show no interest in bait unless it is smack-dab in their feeding zone. To help me get the upper hand in this, I have enlisted the aid of two buoys.

Working from a chart of the area I plan to fish, I make up two sash-weighted buoys of equal length, sufficient to reach and hold bottom in the area and also allowing an extra ten feet or so for tidal action and sea conditions. When the rock pile is located, I toss over buoy #1, which I call my "working" buoy. I move around this until the fish are located and then drop over the second, which I call my "fishing" buoy. I fish as close to this buoy as possible. Should the fish cease biting, I lift the fishing buoy, leave the working buoy as a reference point, and then go about locating more fish in the area. Works like a charm.

Before I conclude this, I'll add some of those New York Bight blackfishing spots I've fished when aboard party boats: 17 Fathom Bank; inshore and offshore Seabright; Subway Grounds (south of Ambrose Light); Ambrose Ridge; Cholera Bank; Iberia Wreck; Howard Wreck; Stone Barge; C.O.D. Wreck; Joe Wreck; Steel Wreck, and the Coal Wreck.

As you can see, there is much selection, and any one of those rock-strewn banks and ledges will produce fall blackfish. Once you get your feet wet, so to speak, you'll have a tough time awaiting each fall season. I know I always do.



SurfSide: BIRDS OF AUTUMN

(Continued from page 11.)

hook faster than the teeth of a big bluefish.

As you have probably gathered by now, a beach buggy is a necessity in order for you to chase these birds. While this is true, those without wheels can sometimes get in on the action. Starting at Ditch Plains and continuing through the Town of Montauk, there are areas where you can park a car and walk down to the water. Although as the fish move it is difficult to keep up with them, you may be able to walk a short distance after the fish. You can then go back to your car and drive to the next parking location. While this is a lot of work, I have seen it done by some die-hard anglers. On more than one occasion, I have picked up these walking fishermen and have taken them with me as we both pursued the fleeing fish.

To be able to exactly pinpoint the arrival of these rampaging blues is very difficult. However, during the past few years they have hit the south side beaches any time from the last week in September until October 15. So if you happen to be in Montauk during these times, visit the south side beaches and be on the lookout for those birds of autumn.

Good luck and good fishing.

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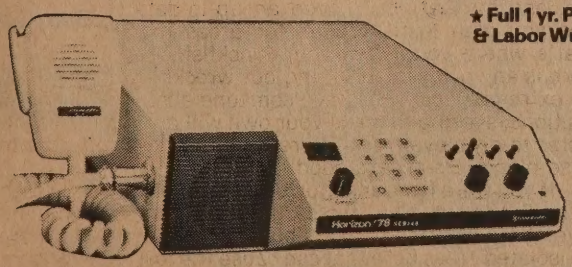

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THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE ...From the Godfather's Cookbook

by Andy Regina

BAKED CLAMS Italienne

We were awakened at 2:30 a.m. by someone knocking gently at our door. Now, you can expect the phone to ring at that unearthly hour, and oftentimes our late arriving son, Joe, forgot his house keys, so we had even sort of become used to having the doorbell ring in ye wee hours—but knocking on the door? Never! Well, at least almost never.

When you get awakened like that, you sort of expect all kinds of bad news, and I was filled with all sorts of thoughts as I slipped into a robe and slippers, and hurried to the door. My query of, "Who's there?" was answered by a hushed, "It's me, Carmine, Mist' Andrea," and I opened the door to reveal Uncle Vito's old friend standing there, an apologetic smile on his weather-beaten face. The years had not diminished his huge size, although the thatch of hair exposed when he removed his cap revealed a snowy roof where there had once been thick black curls.

And he was really glad to see me too, hugging me to him as he used to do years ago, when I was a kid. And his breath still was straight garlic, and that lumpy suspender snap still dug into me as hard as it used to. Big Carmine used to hold me a lot when I was a kid, and I really liked that guy—although his breath left a lot to be desired. He really loved my Uncle too, and I suspect that he was more than just a chauffeur, but who was I to question anything about Uncle Vito?

Calming any fears I expressed about my Uncle's health or well being, Carmine assured me that everything was all right, and explained his late-night call as being a request of my Uncle's. It seems that business had brought my Uncle into our neighborhood at this time, after some lengthy contract negotiations downtown. I never really knew what Uncle Vito actually did for a living, but whatever it was must have been very lucrative, because the man had plenty of money, big cars, beautiful clothes; a lot of people who worked for him and a lot of friends, judging by the many people I remember stopping him wherever he went, just to say hello. Now that Carmine mentioned contract negotiations, I finally realized that perhaps my Uncle was some kind of labor mediator, or connected with some union. I mean, what else could you conclude?

Anyhow, when Carmine asked me if I'd mind if my Uncle came for a visit right there and then, I said no vehemently, and meant it. But then, no one ever said no to Uncle Vito, and besides, I really didn't mind—it had been a long time since his last visit, and the next day was a holiday anyhow, and no one had to get up for work. Beaming like St. Bernard, Big Carmine simply stepped aside, and there was my uncle. He had been behind Carmine all the while, and had been enjoying some sort of game; but the answers had all been right, and now he stood before me, his arms outstretched, and smiling. I fought the urge to drop down to my knee and kiss his ring; it was something only done in movies, right? And besides, I wasn't sure if it was the right thing to do anyway. At any rate, Uncle Vito settled the problem by wrapping me into a hug and kissing me on both cheeks. Whew! I was safe! If he had only kissed me on one cheek, I'd have been in trouble! (According to the movies, that is.)

By this time my wife had dressed and come to the door, squealing with honest delight as she saw my Uncle, kissed him and made a fuss over him, then retired to the kitchen to brew some coffee. All the while we were on my threshold, so I invited the men in. My Uncle entered, but Carmine didn't—he never came into any of our homes, as far as I can remember. Before I could close the door, my Uncle nodded to his friend, who nodded to someone unseen at the bottom of the stairwell. Up the stairs came two young men, in beautiful vested suits, each carrying packages. The first guy had two packages and the second guy carried a dripping bushel that he was trying to avoid dripping onto his suit and his Gucci shoes, holding the bushel at arm's length and running to deposit it in our kitchen sink without having it drip onto our floors. Another nod from my Uncle, and these two disappeared into the night with Carmine, but you sorta got the feeling that they were close by, if you know what I mean.

My Uncle opened the two packages on the table, revealing cold boiled lobster and two cold bottles of champagne—only they weren't champagne, they were Asti Spumante, a sparkling Italian wine. The presents were for disturbing us in the middle of the night, and, as my Uncle said, because "Lena" said she loved cold lobster. "Lena" is my wife Eileen, but Uncle Vito always called her "Lena"—he could never believe that SOME names did not end in vowels! And she'd said she loved lobster—but it was at our first son's christening party, and that was twenty-three years ago!

What it boiled down to was the fact that my Uncle missed us; maybe because we really loved the guy for himself, not for what some people said he might be. Maybe because we were the only family the old guy had, maybe because he was my "Goombah"—I don't know. All I do know is that we love him and he loves us. And that trip that night was a spontaneous thing on his part. Some friends had given him some wine and lobsters, and he wanted to share them with us.

That bushel dripping into the sink was filled with little neck clams, and covered with crushed ice. I had a hunch that my folks had mentioned our proposed backyard cookout for the holiday to him, and this was his way of wangling an invitation. Of course, I assured him that he never needed any invitations to our home—he could just pop in any time, like that night; but he said that being asked was better. More respectful, he called it. And he was right. After all, you can't just go walking into everyone's home whenever you want to, right? And when you're asked, it means that you're wanted, and I guess that Uncle Vito needed to be reassured that he was wanted—by us, I mean!

He did ask one favor before he left, and that was if Lena would mind making some of those clams for him the way he liked them, which is the way Mama used to make 'em when she was younger, sort of stuffed and baked. Naturally my wife couldn't refuse my Uncle. First of all, he had her snowed: he was her favorite Uncle, and he could ask her to cook anything he wanted, she'd do it gladly; secondly, as I said before, you just don't say no to Uncle Vito.

As he left, saying he'd be back later for the cookout, Big Carmine was waiting for him behind our door. Had he been standing there all the while, or did he just know when to come back? I'll never know, and I'll never ask. Peeking through the drapes as they left, I saw that the black limo was no longer that Packard of my youth; it was a new Caddy, and as it pulled away it was followed closely by another black Caddy, in which I'm sure were those two young dudes who brought the packages. Time stood still momentarily, as I recalled a similar scene from the long ago past, when the cars had been twin Packards.

******

Baked Clams Italienne

3 doz. little neck or cherrystone clams
3 cups soft bread crumbs
1/2 cup butter or oleo, melted
1/4 cup olive oil
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1 clove garlic, minced fine
1/4 tsp. salt
dash of ground black pepper
1/8 tsp. crushed red pepper
1/4 tsp. paprika
Lemon wedges
Oven temp: 400°
Bake: 12 minutes
Broiler temp: 550°
Broil: 4 minutes
Servings: 6

(Continued on page 35.)

Blackfishing in Great South Bay

by Bob Hunt

Fishing for blacks on the South Shore is quite different from the North Shore. Up north, they are blessed with acres of rock-strewn bottom, ledges and boulders. In the Great South Bay, all you have is sand and only an occasional mussel bed. The problem, then, is finding the habitat that blacks like.

Blacks inhabit any area or object that contains their kind of food. This includes barnacles, mussels and crabs. The only place you find this kind of menu is on rocks, docks, bridges and wrecks. These objects provide a home for the food blackfish love. Find their food and you'll probably find the blacks as well.

The chart shows the inlet area of the Great South Bay. The numbers refer to a particular habitat known to contain blacks. Each spot is fished a little differently, so I'll cover each one.

1. Bascule Bridge: This short bridge over the State Channel is west of Captree Boat Basin. Fish this spot when there is little boat traffic. You can tie up to the bridge and fish between the wooden poles.

2. Sore Thumb: This is a difficult place to fish because of the rocks and strong currents. Anchor up close and cast into the rocks. Throw a surfcaster a beer and he'll loop a stern line around a metal rod or rock and throw it back to you.

3. Oak Beach Jetty: Located behind the Oak Beach store, this is a good place to anchor during the week. On weekends, it belongs to the shore-bound, sinker-throwing fishermen.

4. Robert Moses Bridge: Anchor up-tide of any of the bridge abutments and drift back almost to the concrete. Some abutments hold fish; others none. You have to try a few until you get a good spot.

5. Coast Guard Dock: Some very good blackfishing is to be had on this dock, especially on the western corner. The only problem is that the Coast Guard chases you away.

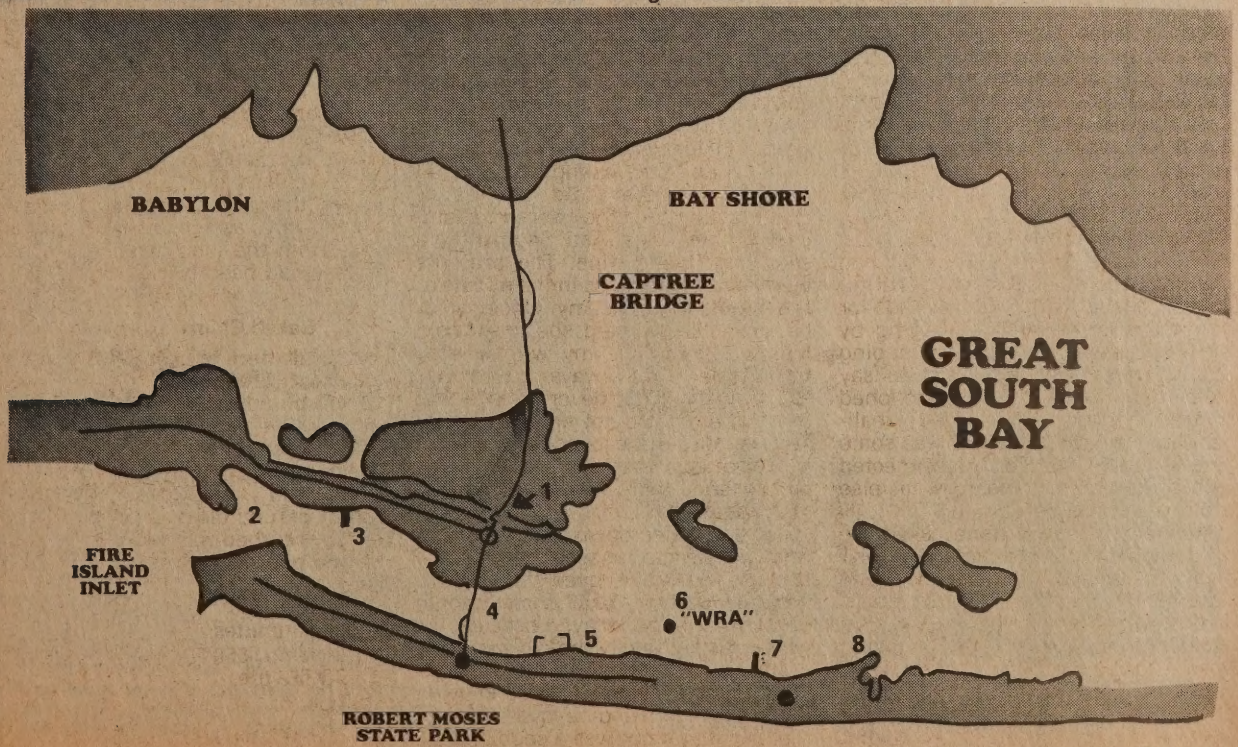
6. "WRA" Buoy: This red buoy marks the wreckage of barges that were sunk on this spot years ago. At times, this was a hotspot for blacks. Today, much of the wreckage is sanded in or washed away. With a good graph recorder you can still find small pieces of the wreck scattered neaby.

7. Lighthouse Dock: This long dock is located near the old lighthouse. You can tie up to the pilings easily. Fish right alongside each piling.

8. Artificial Reef: The "Inshore" reef is made up of concrete and old tires. The Babylon Tuna Club was one of many conservation-minded groups that helped build this blackfish habitat, with the guidance of the DEC. This spot eats anchors; so don't anchor on the reef. Anchor with a cement block and clothes line. If you don't get your cement block back, good! You've helped build up the reef. The fish here are usually smaller than at the other spots, but they make up for it in quantity. The place is paved with fish. The reef is marked on each end with a small white buoy and is located just east of the Lighthouse Dock.

These are just some of the blackfish spots in the Bay. Some captains have "secret" wrecks that produce big fish in the fall. This is because it is not heavily fished.

One last point: keep your rigging simple. Tie one Virginia blackfish hook eighteen inches above the sinker. Add one live fiddler crab—and you're in business. Hardware and tandem rigs will cost you fishing time and money. Keep it simple.



WORKING FOR THE BLUES

Night Bluefishing Out of Sheepshead Bay

by Don Millus

The world of the party boat fisherman may be fun to visit, but it takes a special kind of determination to live there and make one's living at it.

Some summer afternoon at five o'clock try strolling down Emmons Avenue—the street that runs parallel to Sheepshead Bay. Along the docks that jut out at angle into the Bay, the action of the daytime fishing is ending and the preparation for the evening sailings is well under way.

A few crews are still selling what is left of their day's catch: some fluke, perhaps—but these go quickly; a selection of porgies, mostly small, laid out in groups of five to eight fish. "Four dollars, take your choice," the young man offers, tanned and muscular in his faded T-shirt. An elderly couple looks at the piles of fish, and shake their heads. A counter-offer may be made and accepted, and the fish are quickly put into a plastic bag and handed up on the dock.

With a fresh catch of bigger fish, such as fluke (flou der) and sea bass, the crews may not be willing to bargain. Groups of spectators move from one newly arrived boat to another, looking for a better price and better fish. The "Rainbow" chugs up the middle of the Bay, its horn blasting. It has had a good day fishing for fluke and its crew may sell $50 worth of fish or more.

The boats that have been out for blues are cleaning up quickly today, for action out off the New York and New Jersey shore has been slow. One boat has few fish to sell, but those have been taken out of the cooler from the night before. How does the crew set the prices? "All that the traffic will bear," one honest young mate replies. Patience in buyer and seller is the key and the ritual of the marketplace continues on boats that cost a quarter of a million dollars to build.

But the ritual of the boat captains is even more interesting to watch. They stand at the street end of the piers ready to call to anglers as their cars pass in search of parking spaces. "Ranger here, first boat out tonight. Blues, here," Billy Scarpatti intones as he and his father, Captain Mike, try to assemble a boatload of fishermen.

"How's the fishing been?" we inquire. "Slow, very slow," is the frank answer. Some of the boats have fished all day and not taken their first blue. Since the bluefish is the standby of the West End fleet, this is bad news for men with big mortgages on their boats and large fuel bills to pay.

This youngster has just hooked into the first bluefish of his life. Notice the look of determination on his face!

The *Ava-27* jig catches the light and attracts blues and weaks, but with darkness fishing slowed. But this youngster at least had something to remember from his first bluefishing trip.

Even when the fishing is slow, Saturday night always brings out the New York anglers. It's just before sailing time on a bluefish boat going out of Sheepshead Bay.

But despite the gloomy view of the summer's fishing, there always seems to be enough New Yorkers and visitors to make an evening trip for blues possible. Along the Bay, anglers have begun to line the rails of the many, big (100 feet and more) fishing boats that will sail day and night all summer.

With Captain Mike Scarpatti, Jr., at the helm, the Ranger V slowly eases away from Pier 5 and threads its way around the small boats anchored in the Bay. All along Emmons Avenue, the bluefish boats are backing out for an evening off the Rockaways.

We round Breezy Point within twenty minutes and before most of the fishermen have settled down to their evening meal, the word passes that fish have been spotted. Captain Mike has found a school of small fish feeding near the surface. His crew is ready with their rods rigged with shining Ava-27 jigs—a small metal lure with a barrel swivel and single hook. When bounced off the bottom, this three ounce lure looks just like a bait fish. Many of the fishermen on board hurriedly buy one from the crew and take their bait hooks off their rigs.

The big boat has hardly slowed before the lines are in the water. As is not infrequent, a crew member hooks the first fish. A bluefish weighing about a pound is swung on board. I decide to give it a try with the jigs.

"Let it sink to the bottom," Billy Scarpatti coaches me, "and then bounce it up and down." The third bounce brings a solid hit and I'm into my first blue of the evening. Memories of five and ten pounders caught while drifting chunks of bait come back, but a live one pounder beats remembering the big ones. I manage to bring the blue over the rail without tangling anyone.

Meanwhile, Billy is into something bigger. His rod has a much more authoritative bend in it. A big blue? "I think I've got a weakfish," he chuckles. The fish will only go about five pounds—not a huge fish in comparison with some of the weaks of recent years. Still, it will turn out to be the biggest fish of a slow night.

One of the crew members forgets his manners and wedges his way into a spot between me and a young man whom I've just helped hook into the first bluefish of his life. The youngster doesn't notice the breech of fishing etiquette. The crew members are human, after all, and they can make a few extra dollars catching fish, but the customer should always come first. The rest of the crew knows this, and the incident is not repeated.

Neither is the fast fishing. As darkness falls, the fishing grinds to a halt. The blues and weaks can't see the lures as well. Captain Mike orders lines up and goes off in search of feeding blues.

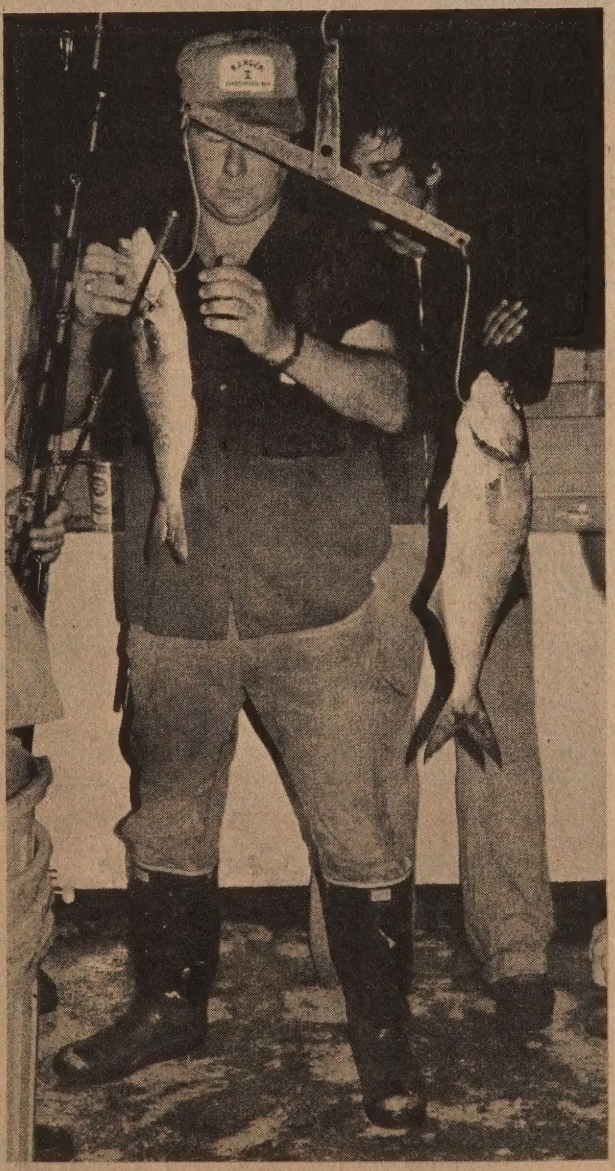
Now comes the slow part of the evening. The crew ladles chum over the side; ground bunker (menhaden) that is meant to attract feeding schools of blues. We bait our small hooks, rigged on wire leaders, with whole spearing or shiners, which are small bait fish. A light, rubber-cored sinker or a few split shot is added to take the bait a few feet below the surface. The lines are let out and the long wait begins.

We are drifting off the Long Island shore near the Rockaways, and the lights of the roller coaster keep us company for the next few hours. Here and there a bluefish or two are caught; but these are small fish and their feeding is sporadic. Many of the fishermen on board are skunked for the night. When the horn sounds to end the night's fishing, just after midnight, a small cheer goes up. Drops of rain begin to fall, putting a symbolic end to a slow evening with small blues.

But there is still some excitement left. At the stern, fish are being weighed for the pool. A three pound blue easily holds off all challengers on the balance beam. Of course, the crew's fish are ineligible. Sixty-four dollars goes to the catcher of that blue which, on another day, would be the smallest fish on a day's trip.

We head back to the dock. It's raining harder now and there are no crowds of buyers for the few fish the crew has managed to collect. Billy supervises the cleaning of the deck. In a few hours, the lights will go on again on the Emmons Avenue fleet; the Ranger V and her sister boats will be off once more searching for the big blues. In the meantime, captains and customers take what they can get.

Crew members ladle out bunker chum to form a "slick."



The balance beam tells the tale for the pool. The blue on the right weighed only three pounds, but it was worth sixty-four dollars in the pool for being the biggest fish.

WIRE LINE TECHNIQUES

by Pete Barrett

Like any style of fishing, you must be rigged up properly to get the best out of this fishing. There are specialized tackle requirements, techniques and tricks that will assure success to the fisherman who pays attention to details and is willing to put in a little effort.

Whether you keep all you catch or release a few, is a personal matter. We've made it a practice to release all bass after the first three fish. It is a voluntary personal limit. What you do is your business and up to your own conscience. Just keep in mind that the bass population does keep getting smaller each passing season.

Why wire?

Single strand wire line is the top choice for getting lures down deep while trolling. Monel is the preferred wire, but stainless is also used by a large number of fishermen. It has a fine diameter that cuts cleanly through the water allowing the weight of the line to sink at a predictable rate.

Plain mono with a trolling sinker will get lures down a few feet, but the resistance of the mono in the water will eventually cause the line to rise, actually lifting the drail higher in the water.

Lead core is used by a small number of fishermen, but its large diameter has the greatest water resistance. It takes more lead core to get down to a given depth than single strand wire. Lead core is best used in those situations where you know you will always be trolling a shallow reef where you will never have to use more than 100 to 150 feet. If you want to get lower than twenty feet, wire is the choice.

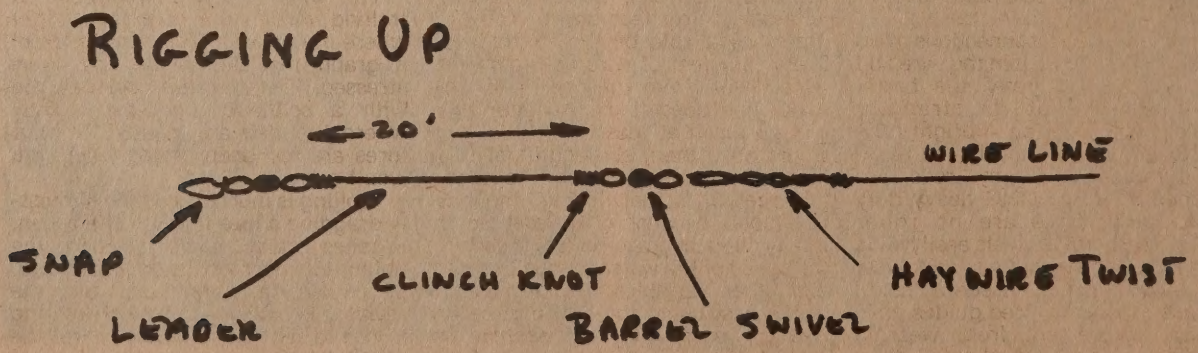
Tackle Requirements:

Proven reels are the Penn 500M, 112H and 113H. The #500 offers the chance to switch spools so you can carry either a back-up wire completely rigged, or switch to mono if you want to dunk pogies. It will not take the strain of wire for too long and I would suggest converting the standard reel over to the more durable Newell Conversion. The #112H is about right for 150 feet of wire, with 100 yards of backing, while the #113H will handle up to 100 yards of wire and nearly 200 yards of backing. In some special situations, the #113H can be filled with 200 yards of wire if you have to really go down deep.

The #112H and #113H also have the added advantage of taking in line quickly—a must when a big bass or blue runs toward the boat.

Rod preferences vary from one individual to another, and from area to area; but I have found three pairs of rods to cover most any trolling situation I will ever encounter. The first pair are my utility trolling rods of six-and-a-half feet, manufactured by Garcia as rod #2568. They are equipped with carboloy guides. A second set of rods are nine feet long, made from Lamiglas blank #BT1083M and are outfitted with Fuji guides. The last pair are very short rods of only five feet, also fitted with Fuji guides and made up from Lami fifty pound trolling blanks, only minus the addition of the usual wooden butt.

The #2568 rods are trolled directly astern in rod holders angled slightly outward. The nine foot rods are



This is how the author rigs up a leader for trolling.

placed in outrigger-type holders angled nearly ninety degrees from the gunwales. The long length gives a maximum spread to the two side lines so there are fewer tangles. The soft action of these rods are ideal for working big plugs and seems to enhance their action considerably. They also work beautifully with single tubes, umbrellas and bunker spoons. The diagram will show the position of each rod. If it's rough water, or I only have one buddy with me, it can be too much to handle four lines; so we eliminate one of the stern lines and use a clothespin attached to a line off the motor hood to hold the remaining stern line down the middle.

The short fifty pound class rods are designed for jigging bucktails. Their short length lets them fit easily under your arm and behind your back, leaving a short length of rod to actually fish with. The short length is easy to handle and never touches the water as you work the "row, row, row your boat" action. When using the jigging rods all other rods are stowed in the racks, or possibily the two side rods may be left in use, with the stern lines stowed.

These three pairs of rods have proven successful whether trolling at the Vineyard, in Long Island Sound, off Fisher's or at Montauk.

Rigging Up:

Each reel is filled to half capacity with forty or fifty pound test mono for backing. Lately I have been using the bright orange Stren line as backing since it is so easy to see in the water, or just out of the water. The wire is attached to the backing with a barrel swivel size #3 tied with a haywire twist in the wire and a clinch in the mono. After winding on the appropriate amount of wire, another barrel swivel is attached with a haywire and sixty to eighty pound Ande clear is connected as a leader with a clinch. A large snap is tied to the end of the leader.

I prefer forty pound monel because of its ease of handling. Thirty pound gets deeper faster, but the slightest kink causes a break. Fifty or sixty pound wire is generally too thick to get down deep fast enough.

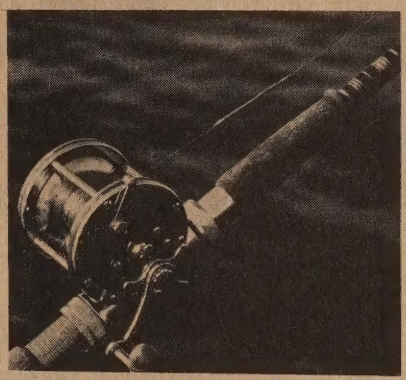
The length of leader should be about twenty feet, but there are many times when a much shorter or perhaps a longer leader will be a better choice. It pays to experiment.

There are other connections, like the Albright Knot, to join the wire and the mono, but I prefer the barrel swivel because of its strength, simplicity (try tying an Albright on a cold November morning in the rain), and durability. All my rods are equipped with Fuji DHG heavy duty guides, and there are no roller tiptops. The barrel swivels easily slide right through the guides and after four seasons and hundreds of hours on these rods, only three guides have needed replacement from wearing out. That is a better average than when the rods were equipped with carboloy guides.

Marking the Wire:

To get the most out of wire line trolling, you must know exactly how deep your lines are. The only way to determine this is to mark your lines at even intervals. I begin marking my lines at one hundred feet, and again at each fifty foot interval thereafter.

There are many systems to mark wire, running the gamut from simple spray paint which quickly wears off, to wrapping the line with very fine telephone wire and coating with epoxy, but one real easy way to mark requires only colored tape. Any hardware should carry 3M vinyl tape. I buy it in the one inch width and pull off a section about nine inches long, lay it on a clean piece of glass or plastic and slice it lengthways into one-quarter inch wide strips. The lines are laid out on a lawn or in a park



Author marks his wire with plastic tape. See story for details.

and measured. At each fifty foot length of wire, I double-wrap the line with a strip of plastic tape. It is important to wrap the line for about three to four inches, and then wrap the tape back over itself. If the mark is too short on the wire it will not hold properly and the mark will slide up and down the line. You can use different colors to indicate different lengths, such as blue for 100; red for 150; yellow for 200, and so on.

Figuring Depth:

Now that the wire is marked, it is relatively simple to figure the correct trolling depth. A graph recorder or at least a flasher is a must. The graph will mark fish over a reef that sits, let's say, thirty feet down. You can figure as a rule of thumb that for every fifty feet of wire trolled in the water (wire from the rod tip to the water line doesn't count), your lure will go down at least five feet. You would need then, six lengths of fifty foot increments to reach the thirty foot reef. In actual fishing, the rule falls apart because of differences in the trolling characteristics of boats, the speed of the water caused by tides and other variables. My Aquasport works best using the figure of seven feet for each fifty foot section. It would then take me about four lengths to get down to the reef or two hundred feet of wire.

You can quickly figure how your boat works by making a trial run over a known sandy bottomed area. Your recorder will tell the actual depth. Let your line out until the rod tip begins to bounce, indicating you are on the bottom. Reel up a few turns until the bouncing stops and look at the mark closest to the water. You can now accurately tell how deep your lines will go for each fifty foot shot of wire. Make a note of the trolling speed. Each increase in speed will require more line; a decrease in speed will require less to get down to the same depth.

Fishing the wire:

Wire line can be frustrating if you have never used it. It has a nasty habit of springing off the spool when you release the tension on the line. It is, therefore, very important to keep tension on the line with your thumb to prevent a horrendous backlash when letting the line out. I find it easiest to speed up the boat a little so the pressure in the lure and line quickly takes the line from the reel with little chance of mishap. Once at the correct trolling depth, I slow down to the trolling speed and begin working my trolling patterns.

I keep a careful eye on the recorder to tell where the fish are marking so I can adjust my lines accordingly. As the bottom structure rises and falls, so, too, the lines are brought in and let out to compensate for the varying depths.

I am convinced that there are few hard and fast rules to develop trolling patterns. If there is any rule, it would be "Try every direction."

In general, it is best to troll crosswise over a reef; run into a tide at a rip, and run a zig-zag along a dropoff or shelf. These, however, are only very rough guides. While working a reel, if I don't get hits on a crosswise pattern, I vary the approach to the reef from every conceivable angle including up-tide, down-tide; up-wind, down-wind; north, south, east and west. Just when you think you have a spot figured out as the fish are all hitting on a crosswise troll pattern, the next week a new school takes up residence who haven't heard of your formula and it's back to the trial-and-error patterns again.

The most important aspect of trolling wire is put your lures right where the fish are. The importance of a graph recorder cannot be overstressed. The recorder will tell you with a continual print-out exactly where the fish are located. If your lures are too deep or too high, you won't score.

Trolling is much more than aimlessly dragging a lure through the ocean. It takes brains, some intuition, the ability to interpret the recorder and, of course, a little luck; but the rewards in fooling a fish by presenting a lure to him so realistically that he jumped on it are among the best in fishing.

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National Scene

(Continued from page 7.)

the day before with her brother-in-law. Her catch consisted of a small bonito, and a bluefish—which, from the spread of her arms, had to weight at least forty pounds. In view of that size estimate, I'd have to say that Nancy has solid qualifications as a sport fisherwoman!

Webb and Kameon Appointed to Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee is an important group which provides advice directly to the Secretary of Commerce. Recent appointees include two individuals prominent in the sport fishing world: Jesse Webb, who runs Pflueger Marine Taxidermy, Hallandale, Florida, and Herb Kameon, of Santa Monica, California, West Coast representative of the National Coalition for Marine Conservation. Both men have long been active in marine conservation and well deserve this honor!

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MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
Striped Bass

There's no doubt about it—a large body of striped bass has moved in to the waters of Montauk. The problem is trying to catch them with any consistency during the daytime. Those fishing at night during the full moon did a good number on the fish with the sharpies taking 12-15 fish a night. But during the day, it's been another story. The fishing was excellent on Monday and Tuesday and it really looked like the start of the fall run. We heard that Capt. Phil Lewis on the charter boat **Adios** took 22 bass trolling around the Point Tuesday morning, and John DeMaio reported taking 71 bass in seven trips early in the week. But the action during the daylight hours rapidly deteriorated from that point on. Capt. Gene Kelly of the charter boat **Sea Doll** had the theory that the problem is the hordes of bluefish during the day that are preventing the bass from getting to the bait. He said that he knows there's a lot of bass down there because the skin divers are cleaning up on them, with one diver taking 25 fish by himself. So it looks like you just need a quick cold snap to chase the blues and start the bass feeding.

Captain Bruce Hoek of the charter boat **Tara** reported that the bass fishing at night on Wednesday through Saturday was excellent. His charters averaged about 12 fish a night trolling large plugs and "other methods." Best trip was Friday night's charter when Don Miller took 14 bass up to 30 lbs. Bruce said that the bass fishing during the day could only be described as slow, except for the good run earlier in the week. The Captain said that it looks like we have the makings of a late run of bass this year, so he's still going to make night charters for the November moon. Give him a holler.

Capt. John DeMaio had a total of 71 bass for seven trips early last week.

Happy anglers with the striped bass they caught on the open boat *Viking Skipper II*. Capt. Bud said that they are taking a few bass every day and are always loading up on bluefish with the Ava jigs.

The best trip was 19 for a half-day and on the worst trip, only one bass was taken. Action was on 6 oz. Ava diamond jigs and the new De-May-O Jigs. John said that he also took several bass casting bucktails.

Capt. Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** reported that he has had great success sailing as an open boat diamond jigging for striped bass and bluefish whenever the weather has cooperated. Best day was on Wed. when 8 bass were taken up to 30 lbs. The boat is fishing in the Rips right in front of the lighthouse so the action is close at hand and only a short ride. Most of the blues and bass are being taken on Ava diamond jigs, but a few have been bagged on live eels, with are available on board. On Saturday, Jeff Breslow was high hook with 36 bluefish.

Captain Gene Kelly of the charter boat **Sea Doll** told us that he has been picking at the bass and getting a couple or three fish a trip mixed in with unbelievable amounts of bluefish. The bass are averaging 15-18 lbs., but the divers have really been cleaning up on some big fish. Gene said that the way things are shaping up, it looks like the bass fishing should start any day and continue at least until Election Day and beyond. The key seems to be the exit of the blues.

Capt. Fred Bird of the **Flying Cloud** reported that the fall run is on and still going strong. Porgy fishing is better now than at any time this year. Irving Garner and Phil Westbrook took over 300 porgies between them in the high winds on Sunday. George Downs soloed with three bushels of oven-stuffers. The captain said that the Flying Cloud, the Little Bear and the Jigger III are all fishing together on the south side and that 100 lb. sacks are quickly being filled up. Fishing was so good on the weekend that the anglers aboard asked to quit early.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that bass fishing has been on and off—on at night, off during the day with a couple of blitzes early during the week. Trolling at night was excellent with large plugs in the Pollack Rip and also close in between can 3 and the Lighthouse. A couple of sharpies also scored at Shagwong. Blackfishing getting better every day at Shagwong with some real bulldogs coming in. Blues are everywhere, but everyone's tired of catching them.

Maureen at **Gone Fishing Marina** reported that on Thursday morning, Ron Onorato and a friend took 18 bass up to 28 lbs. on 4 oz. Green Tri-Fin Sand Eel jigs. On Saturday night, Steve Bart of Bay Shore got approximately 100 lbs. of bass, trolling plugs off the light along with 100 lbs. of blues and a weakfish weighing about 10 lbs. On Saturday night, Chuck McDermott of Northport got an 18 lb. bass off the Lighthouse with live eels. This is his first bass and he was quite thrilled. All in all, the fishing was not that spectacular—not quite the August run that they expected, although everyone is catching good sized fish.

Captain Ron Grandinetti of the **Julie III** fished Montauk all week and has been catching from 100-200 blues per charter. He also managed to catch seven striped bass on two charters. He has also been fishing for blackfish at Shagwong and caught 270 fish that weighed from 2-1 lbs. for three of his charters. Looks like the fall blackfish run has started.

A dozen striped bass up to 30-lbs. that were taken on Ava-67 jigs and the new De-May-O jigs by Art, Bill and Ed on the charterboat *Vivienne*.

The "Viking Starship's" Oct. 10 Coxes Ledge run resulted in this monster cod for John Rhodes of Penn. The fish tipped the scales at 62 lbs.

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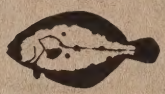

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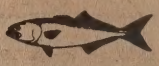

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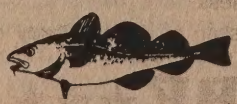

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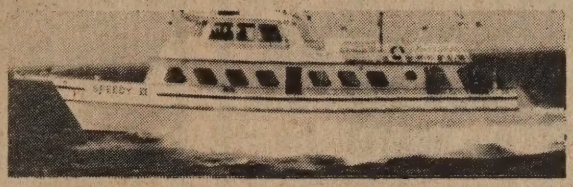

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Nick DeCrescenzo, Luis Rivas and Dave Ramos with a catch of 65 flounder taken at buoys 50 and 54 in Moriches Bay. They also had a dozen nice blueclaw crabs. Photo courtesy Skidmore's Fishing Station.

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SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
BLACKS

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Bellows, Sr. of the **Capt. Clark Fleet** called to tell us that the blackfishing has reached the peak in both Peconic Bay and the ocean. On Wednesday, he fished over wrecks in the bay and 26 fares took over 400 keepers, 20 of which were over 8 lbs. Scott Langdon of Bellmore took 38 fish by himself, one of which was big enough to cop the pool. On Thursday, he fished an ocean wreck and found excellent blackfishing with a mix of porgies and big sea bass—a few of which went over 4 lbs. Captain Clark said that past years tell us that late October and the month of November is usually the best blackfishing, so there's plenty of great action still in front of us.

Speck's Bait and Tackle reports blues are the best bet off the beaches from Shinnecock to Southampton. Flounders picking up in the bays, particularly buoy 6, Sag Harbor. One customers had 40 keepers on worms and clam. Lot of blackfish activity on fiddlers and greens at wrecks, rocks and bridges. Bass activity down due to weather and the bluefish chopping up baits. Some porgies still in the Peconics. Best Montauk bass action has been at Ditch Plains on Gibbs Polaris Poppers.

HAMPTON BAYS

Corr's Fishing Station reports flounder continues to improve in Shinnecock Bay. Good action now being had in Shinnecock Canal and in front of the Coast Guard Station to the east side of East Channel at the Inlet. Fish are averaging ¾ lbs. on mussel or scallop shell for chum.

MORICHES BAY

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** tells us his boats have been having very good flounder results. Catch of the week went to Brooklyn anglers John DeVita and Rich Leath on Friday the 13th with 90 keeper flounder and 3½ dz. blueclaws. Bloodworms for the flounder and squid on rings for the crabs, all at buoy 50. On Thursday, Mike Kenney of Wappingers Falls, New York had 70 keeper flounder on bloods and no chum at buoy 50. Even in Saturday's rain, the skiffs averaged 50-60 fish per boat. Sunday's wind put things down but the blueclaws were strong nonetheless.

Al Lassen of the **Highway Fishing Station** reported that there were a lot

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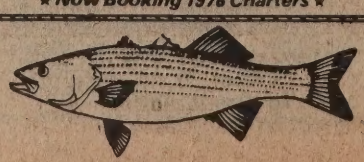

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of blueclaw crabs being taken in the coves until the windy weekend arrived. A few flounder are being taken down by the bridges at buoy 44. The fish are mixed sizes and the water is still a little warm, so we probably need a cold snap to liven things up. Still bluefish outside the Inlet.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz' Fishing Station tells us that it's been slow on flounders this past week, but the crabs though late, are great. Best action is buoys 15-17 in traps and rings. Gary says they are big and are brought back by the bushel baskets.

SAYVILLE

Young's Fishing Station reports that Clay Hardman bagged a 6 lb. 8 oz. black and his wife Mary took a 5¾ lber, along with 25 additional blacks fishing Kismet with fiddlers. Flounder catches are only fair and sizes likewise. Heckscher and all the bay areas are good choices to try. This is on worm and clam and of course chumming helps. Kings and eels still around.

BAY SHORE

Smokey's Bait and Tackle reports flounders in the half to 1¼ lbs. range are good. Try behind the hospital,

lichols Point, the State Channel on lam and worms. Chumming with lam bellies is a must. Blackfish at the Kismet Reef, with a customer named Valter decking 60 of the sluggers on aturday in the rain on fiddlers. Sea ass and porgies in west channel in ne hole near buoy 4. Blues at emocrat 2-4 lbs. for surfcasters on lugs and tin. Bass at Pointer Woods nd Kismet on the ocean side. These re teen fish hitting plugs from the each, along with blues of 15 and 16 s. The West Bar has been producing ig blues in the 10-15 lb. range on tin nd poppers. Carl heard of a 40 lb. ass taken last Wednesday on a opping plug at the west bar. Lots of lues being trolled in 65 ft. of water ff Cherry Grove on umbrellas and ubes.

Capt. Walter Spech of the open oat **Casey Lee** reported that the lounder fishing has ranged from eing fantastic to fair, depending on he weather conditions, but all in all, he flounder action has been the best all in years. A few days of high orthwest winds kept a lid on the ction with anglers only getting five to en fish per man. But on Thursday, he fish bit the nails off the boat—Sid Winnick of Bay Shore was high hook with 71 flounder, while the low man aboard took 22 fish. Saturday's action was also excellent with 15-30 fish per nan. Hot areas have been Heckscher and the Bay Shore flats using worms or clam for bait on any moving tide.

CAPTREE

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** reported that the bluefishing was fairly good all week. Tuesday was a tough day, but he bailed out with some good sea bass fishing on the third wreck they fished. On other days a lot of anglers took 15-20 fish each. The blues are big and average 6-15 lbs. and jigging with green banana splits has been best. The regular diamond jigs have not been producing for some reason and the night action has also been off.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the charter boat **Lady Ann** told us that Saturday's charter was spent blackfishing and flounder fishing. In the morning the charter fished for blacks on bay wrecks and found the fishing slow, but the fish big. The largest bulldog taken was 7 lbs. using fiddler crabs for bait. Later in the day, 85 flounder of mixed sizes were taken off Heckscher.

BABYLON

Augie's Bait and Tackle reports lots of flounder though many on the small side, keeper ratio roughly one out of four. This is action all over the flats, with chumming or stirring the bottom a necessity. Try behind the hospital, the Babylon flats or the Babylon cut at the state channel. Ski weighed in a 30 lb. 2 oz. striper on Wednesday for Ken Cordeau of Babylon soaking a clam off the construction dock. A lot of big blues at night off the beach for surfcasters, mainly on bait, particularly eating up the eels intended for bass. These giant blues in the surf are in a 15 lb. variety. A few flounders off the Babylon dock on worms. Blackfishing is fair at the bridges and reefs on fiddlers or green crabs.

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** tells of flounder from the head buoy to the Captree bridge, mostly on the south side of the bay. Fish are running up to 2 lbs. but they are mainly smaller fish. Good blackfish at the artificial reef, specimens up to 6 lbs. Catches in the 20s average per boat, best at t the Kismet reef on crabs, clam or squid. Flounder activity is the strongest of the week on blood worms, no chum necessary with the flats behind Good Sam also producing.

Six-year-old Cris Specht with the largest of 30 flounders he and his Grandmother Ann, caught on the "Casey Lee."

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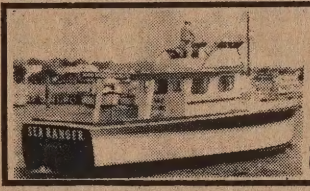

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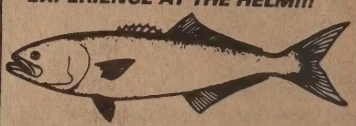

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ATLANTIC BEACH

SOUTH SHORE BAYS

★BEST BET★ FLOUNDER

LINDENHURST

The Sea Horse reports fair to good flounder catches, working various areas in Great South Bay with worms and clam.

Charlie's Bait and Tackle tells of good flounder catches at Copiague Hole, behind Good Sam and on the Babylon Flats on bloodworms. Wall to wall blues on the outside, says John, by just about any method you choose, trolling, jigging or chumming. Blacks are a good number at the bridge and the Kismet Reef, fiddlers and green crab.

COPIAGUE

Larry at **Bait and Tackle Unlimited** reports flounder fishing was very good on the flats, some fish up to 2 lbs., but the majority smaller, with some porgies mixed in on worm and clam. Harry Karscher had a solid catch of blackfish at the Kismet reef up to 5 lbs. on fiddlers. Good size bluefish hitting the length of Jones Inlet on whole or chunked bunker and on jigs. A few bass at the Sore Thumb and at Jones Inlet and Gilgo along with Zachs Bay on eels and clam chum.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle tells us flounder fishing very good at Four Corners, Massapequa Cove, the Wantagh drawbridge, Haunts Creek, with the best being at Squaw and West Island. Sand worms are doing a great job with the help of clam belly chum in a pot under the boat. Some porgies and blowfish in the bay at the deeper holes. Blues on whole or chunk bunker, plus some weakfish on the inside at the bridges. Big blues in the surf at West End, Cedar Beach and Moses Park. Best is at night and early morning daylight hours. Bunker chunks or artificials are doing it. Best bet is a bunker chunk on a fish finder rig.

Big Eddie at **Shore Isle Marina** tells us blues ranging from 11½ to 12¾ lbs. were caught by Howard Nussdorf and Ed Kovedsky on live bunker at the 3rd Wantagh on outgoing night tide. Friday the 13th wasn't unlucky for Mike Bulbis. He bagged a 33½ lb. striper at the 3rd bridge swimming a live bunker. He also picked up 7 blues from 11-14 lbs. Flounder are great on blood or sand worms, some up to 1½ lbs. However, a lot of the fish are small and should be gently returned to the water. Some blowfish around also.

WANTAGH

Billy at **Causeway Bait and Tackle** reports blues in the surf on bait and also being trolled with spoons and umbrellas, just a little ways off the beach on out. Fair flounder activity with a lot of midgets behind Merrick and Freeport.

BELLMORE

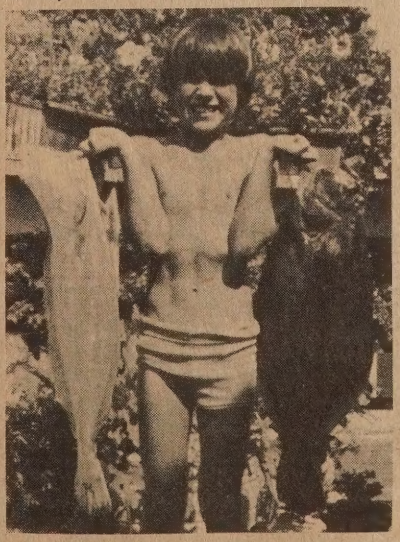
The singing dog at **Merrick Marine Tackle Center** reports some bass on bunker on the inside with one 32 lbr. weighed in. This was a daytime caught fish during the week. Flounders are fair during the week, but they are erratic as to where they show one day and disappear the next.

MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station reports flounder fishing started to pick up earlier in the week with better sizes showing up but still a lot of throwbacks. The bigger fish are being caught on the flats at high water off rowboat alley and Broad Creek. Big blues on the outside on trolled bunker spoons. A couple of bass were caught on live bait from zachs Bay east, in the state boat channel.

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** reports good flounder fishing in Baldwin and Middle Bays on bloodworm and clam belly chum. Andy took 17 blues trolling umbrellas fish up to 4 lbs. close in to the beach.



These 8 and 10 lb. doormat fluke were landed by Jedd Yudelson on the Nancy-Y at Montauk. Photo courtesy Cove Marina.

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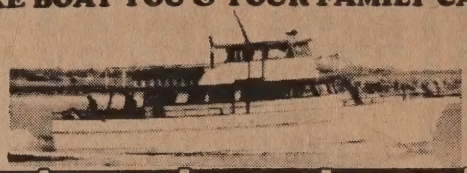

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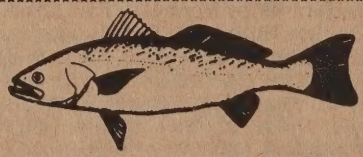

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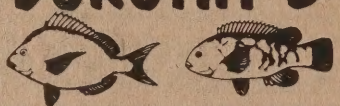

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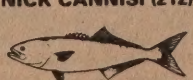

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WEST END SOUTH SHORE

★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

FREEPORT

Capt. Mike Dannon of the **Capt. Lou II** tells us that Mon. thru Fri. saw good flounder catches working local creeks. Fish were mainly on the small side, but there were enough larger fish to make it interesting. A few kings, porgies and sea bass are also being taken. The weekend was slower due to rain and wind conditions. Even so, most fares had 5-6 keepers, with hi hook 20 keeper flounder.

The Capt. Al reports the bluefishing continues to be good, working Cholera on both bait and artificials.

Capt. Richie on the **Starstream II** reports excellent bluefishing all week at Cholera with bigger fish now moving in. Customers even had a good pick on the tough days of Sat. and Sun. caused by the ground swell and heavy rains. Catches are running anywhere from fish of 1½ lbs. up to 15 lbs.

The Bluefin II called to tell us that they had blues Sat. at Cholera with the pool fish going 12 lbs., though most fish ran 2-5 lbs. on bait and chum. On Sun., Capt. Charlie Adams Blue Fin and Capt. Sy Karlin's Blue Fin II both fished offshore wrecks and they both did well on sea bass, porgies and blackfish. Some porgies ran up to 2 lbs. on clam and green crab. The boat has 4 open cod weekend dates available until the end of the year, says Sy.

Hook, Line and Sinker Bait and Tackle tells us that Mon. Joe Goliger pulled 31 keeper flounder out of Scow Creek.

Charterboat **The Rogue** called to tell us that his Sat. trip to the HA buoy for Frank Buckly, Stan Bach and Neil (Mouth) Kalischer resulted in a 17¾ lb. blue being boated with a mess of other choppers. A loon with a broken wing was snagged by one of these anglers and at the end of the day, it was brought to the Oyster Bay Wildlife Preserve. (Is this what you call fishing is for the birds? Sunday's trip for John Worgul resulted in a catch of blues from 4-12 lbs. taken at Middle Grounds. The bigger fish were taken at the HA area. Two sharks were on but broke off Saturday. On a trip last week, Neil Kalischer also hooked and landed, without assistance, a large stainless steel bow rail. He is now accepting orders. Maurice Moller saw a 61 lb. striper weighed in at Montauk Marine Basin by a Ct. angler taken on a diamond jig. Maurice and Al Mailey on Al's Sea Fever boated 500 lbs. of blues at Shagwong using Ava jigs.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports that all of their boats are still mohawking blues at Cholera. For a change of pace, the Flying Dutchman took a flounder charter working local creeks for 56 thick keeper fish. Most of the blues now are 5-8 lbs. with an occasional fish in the mid-teens.

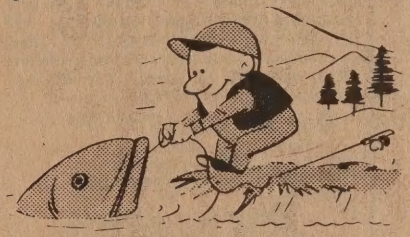
POINT LOOKOUT

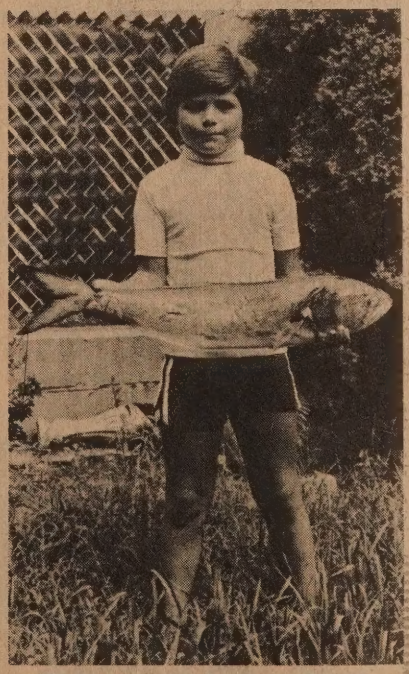
From **Scotty's Marina** came word of very good blackfishing at the Rota Wreck and the T wreck outside of Jone's Inlet. Small flounder on the flats, at the Coast Guard Station and back in Merrick Bay. Irving Grossman of the 3 Gs has been returning with 30-40 blues a day. They have been averaging 8-12 lbs. with an occasional fish going 14 lbs. Irv has been jigging the fish in 20-30 feet of water between Nassau Beach and Lido Beach.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckmann's Tackle Shop** reported that the hot bluefishing of last week in Reynolds Channel slowed somewhat in recent days. The blackfishing and the flounder fishing remains good with the flatties improving in size.

The Commodore reports that Sun. saw fair catches of flounder in Reynolds Channel, buoy 16 area, and at Sloop Channel bridge and a few other spots. Elaine Schultz of Inwood boated 22 keeper flounder from ½ to ¾ lbs. John Trost of the Bronx had 20 good flatties. Clem says Monday





Eight-year-old Anthony Ferraiola got off to a great start by making his first bluefish a 13 lb. slammer. The fish was taken at Norton's Point on a bunker chunk. Subscriber Club photo.

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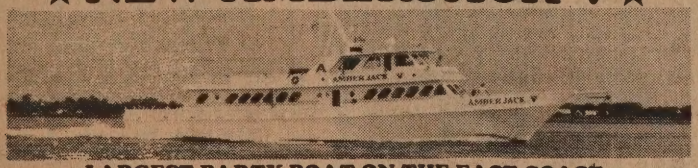

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BOATS-MOTORS
BAIT—TACKLE
Old Dock Road
KINGS PARK 269-9761

Godfather's Cookbook: Baked Clams *Italienne*

(Continued from page 14.)

Scrub clams with stiff brush; wash well under cold running water. Drain, open clams, and set aside, leaving them on half shell. Combine bread crumbs, butter, oil, cheese, garlic, oregano, salt, pepper, and red pepper. Using a rounded tablespoonful of bread mixture, pile loosely on top of clams in shell. DO NOT tamp or pack down mixture.

Pour 1 cup of water in shallow baking pan, place clams shell side down into pan, and put into oven at 400°. Bake 12 minutes, remove. Preheat broiler at 550° for several minutes, then place pan under broiler, 4 inches from heat. Broil 2 minutes, remove pan. Sprinkle clams lightly with paprika, replace pan in broiler for additional 2 minutes, remove when clams become slightly browned. Serve at once with lemon wedges.

An excellent dish for appetizer or main course, this is one of the sophisticated specialties that often goes into true Italian antipastos, which are built of hot and cold delicacies. E' vero Italiano! Scrub and save those empty clam shells, and next time we'll tell you how to make clams Oreganato without all the trouble of having to shuck another batch of clams.

through Friday, he has heard that other flounder and private boats had respectable flounder catches. Bloodworms have been doing the job best.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Sy Rubin of **Hennings Fishing Station** said that blackfish, porgies and flounder are all being taken in Reynold's Channel. The flounders are now running ½ to ¾ of a pound with some fish up to 1 lb. mixed in with the catches. There are bluefish "All along the beach." and some bass at the bridge running up to 20 lbs. Surf casters are taking some big stripers on eels. This seems to be an any time of day or night proposition. The fish are tight to the beach and boatmen can not get to them Big blues still at Cholera.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle spoke of some porgies, small flounders and good blackfishing at the local bridges. A few blues on early morning ebb tide taking bunker chunks at north and south channel bridges.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt. Walter on the **Flamingto III** tells us that the bluefish have been a hot number all week and some stripers were mixed in on Friday and Saturday in the 10-15 lb. class. This was on jigs at the Tin Can outside th their inlet. There were a few days of excellent jig fishing earlier in the week. On Sunday the boat had very good bluefishing in the afternoon at the Farms. Great fall action, with a few alligator blues mixed in. Striped bass should increase in numbers now with the migration coming and there are some late leaving weakfish still mixed in also.

The **Elsie K III** reports there is still very good bluefishing at the Farms and at Seabright on bait, fish from 6-10 lbs.

The **Dorothy B** reports giant porgies caught Saturday and Sunday in good numbers. During the week saw fair action on blacks, sea bass and big porgies, porgies going up to 2 lbs., all on local wrecks.

The Atomic II reports bottom action has picked up on blackfish, sea bass and some ling. The bluefishing remains a slaughter each night, fish up to 20 lbs. at 17 Fathoms and at the

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1976 Mako 200 h.p. Evin. W/15 h.p. Kicker. White line recorder, CB; outriggers, 2 batteries and loaded with extras. 1977 Shoreline Trailer w/power winch. Keep indoors. Like new. $9500. 516-643-7612. 516-691-8061.

BOTVED—Coronet 24' 1969 Fiberglas Deep V with twin 120 h.p. I/O Volvos rebuilt in 1977. If you're looking for a good boat, this is it. Priced at $5000 it is an excellent buy. For further details, call—201-274-5039 Days, or 201-891-3387 Evenings. Boat at Montauk.

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GRADY WHITE, new 1978 Gulfstream, 20' 4" cuddy I/O version of Hatteras Overnighter. 185 h.p. OMC. Recessed walk-around deck. Self-bailing. 65 gal. tank. The perfect family fisherman. Full canvas. $10,400. Eddie's Marine Service. 212-FA 7-3168.

'72 TROJAN 25', 9' beam Fiberglas. 225 Inboard; electronic ignition. Enclosed Bimini center console. Stand-up head. Built-in live well barrel, pump and drain. CB, VHF, Ross, DF, etc. This boat is a pleasure to fish. Well maintained. Must sell. Bought house. $6000. 212-945-2292.

FOR SALE: 2, 427 Ford Engines with pargon transmissions; 2 - 1-3/8" stainless shafts; 2 - wheels 22x26; 2 - 150 gallon gas tanks. Call 9-5, 516-289-3406.

GRADY WHITE, new 1977 25' KINGFISH cruise cabin boat, 235 h.p. OMC. Never again price! $17,350. Equipped; ready to go. Full factory warranties. Eddie's Marine. 212-FA 7-3168.

1974 Fleetcraft 23' 225 OMC, compensated compass; D/F, VHF radio; spotlight; SST Propeller. Very clean. $8500. EDDIE'S MARINE SERVICE, 212-FA 7-3166.

1977 SPORTCRAFT, 27x10, 235 OMC, I/O, less than 100 hrs., 14 ch. VHF, depth recorder, compass. Head; galley. Safety equipment. Dual batteries; spare prop.; 155 gals. gas. Winter canvas and many other extras. MINT CONDITION. Asking $16,000. Must Sell. 914-776-2622 or 203-661-0100 X477, 9-5.

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22' 1977 SISU BASS BOAT. Six cylinder 170 h.p. Volvo Inboard, Freshwater cooled. Bunk; 8' Beam; Full Keel, Tiller and Stern Controls; rod holders; Ross Dual Sportsman; Johnson CB Messenger, outriggers, compass. Hard top. Two fighting chairs. Cruises at 19 knots. Made for the serious fisherman. Asking: $12.500. Call—Ken Turco after 5PM at 516-728-3797.

31' 1972 JERSEY FIBERGLAS SPORTFISHERMAN. Twin 225 h.p. FWC. Reblocked 1976. low hours. Loran, 2 fish finders, 3 radios. Auto. pilot, gin pole, Lee outriggers, flybridge enclosure. Pompanette fishbox; gallery. All in mint condition. Plus much more. MUST SELL. 516-IV 1-2841.

SHAMROCK COUNTRY has some great buys in new, used and is taking orders on the very rare Mini-trawler for winter or spring deliveries. See us soon! Call ROVINA 7AM to 10PM. 516-728-0922.

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2-$228; 4-$319; 6-$460; 9.9-$590; 15-$680; 25-$785; 35-$878; 55-$1325; 70-$1517; 85-$1736; 115-$1839; 140-$1940; 150-$2560; 175-12648; 200-$2774; 235-$2899. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY. Scott & McCulloch Parts. FOB. Call: 516-599-3003.

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1973 Cruisers 19' Vacationer Head, F.W., Galley; ice box. Sleeps 4. 1975 135 h.p. Johnson. Excellent condition. $3950. Call 9-5 Mon.-Fri. Bob. 914-631-5524.

MAKO 22' 1973, Bimini; winter cover. All equipment. Depth finder, CB, with 1977. Johnson 175 h.p. Tilt/Trim. Rod holders. $6500. Tel: 581-6183 after 5 PM.

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NEW 19' MAKO, 70 h.p. Evinrude. Fishbox seat, W/S handrail. 160 AMP battery, controls; 4 rod holders. Ready to fish; complete. $6195. WHITE WATER MARINE, 4600 Sunrise Highway, Oakdale, N.Y.

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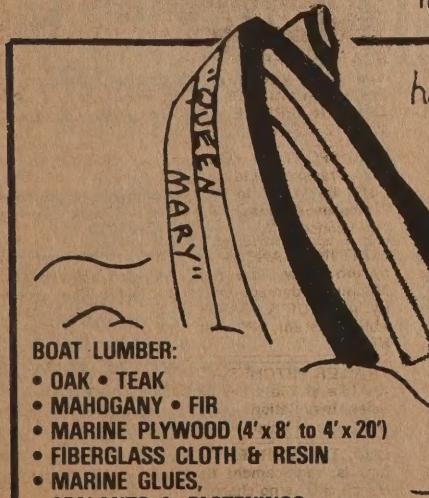
Farms. Capt. Joe Miller tells us that whiting and ling are now being caught by the Jersey boats working the south end of the Mud Hole and he will probably be after these fish in about a week's time.

Capt. Huck of the **Helen H** asks us to remind you that his night bluefishing trips are now Fri. and Sat. nights only at 7PM. His daily day trips and the night runs on blues continue to be a leap job at the Farms and 17 Fathoms. Fish have been 3-8 lbrs at 17 with giants at the Farms from 5-20 lbs. Days it's bait and artificials and just bait at night. The fish are still there thick and that this is the most consistent bluefishing year in memory. Huck says that any big storms notwithstanding, the blues should remain until Nov.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop weighed in a 43 lb. striper for Joe Felini. Joe took the fish at South Beach on a bunker chunk. Big blues, 8 to 12 lbs. from Ft. Wadsworth to Great Kills Harbor hitting swimmers such as the Danny, Atom and Gibbs Darter in the early morning hours. Fish are taken on bunker chunks later in the day. Best action on outgoing water. Big weaks mixed with the blues in the harbor. Slammer blues up to 18 lbs. remain at Norton's Point for wire line trollers using Lupo spoons. Of the flounder fishing, Russ Wilson had 30 one day last week from ½ to ¾ of a pound in the harbor.



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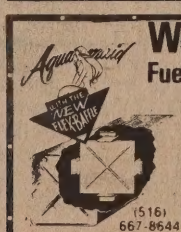

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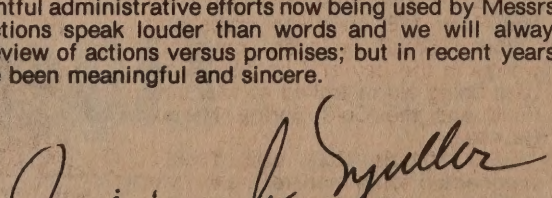
EDITORIAL: *Park Commission*

(Continued from page 4.)

securing the appropriate passes and permits to fish and run the beaches.

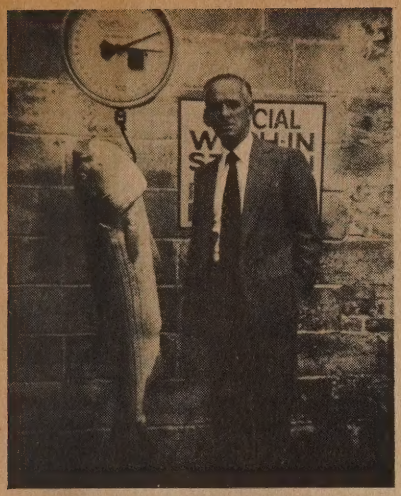
The "new" look at the Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission is welcomed and appreciated and we are grateful for the progressive and thoughtful administrative efforts now being used by Messrs. Sheridan and Ott. Actions speak louder than words and we will always maintain a constant review of actions versus promises; but in recent years, the actions taken have been meaningful and sincere.



GREENPORT

A.P. White Bait Shop reports good blackfishing at Plum Island and Gull Island and along the sound shore on fiddlers, green crabs, and skimmers. Blues along the beaches on bunker chunks, big flounder, 1-2 lbs. on worms and skimmers off the State Park. Bass at Plum Island on night tides. Fish are in the 30 to 40 lb. class and falling to drifted green, yellow and white bucktails.

The **Brand X** enjoyed good fishing



This 38 lb. striper fell for a live bunker in Cold Spring Harbor. Ed Dame was the lucky angler. He weighed the fish at Four Winds Tackle Shop in Huntington.

lasting right through the weekend. Plenty of bluefish from 12 to 19 lbs. taken on bunker and chain rigs in the gut.

The **Wilhelric** has been returning with excellent catches of blacks to 9 lbs. from the north side of Plum Island.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station asked us to remind our readers that they will be closing down for the season in a couple of weeks and wanted to wish all their customers Happy Holidays. They look forward to seeing everyone next spring.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt reported not many fishermen out over the weekend because of the weather. Those who fished in the bay on Saturday got some blacks and flounders. In the pouring rain of Saturday, five boats fished out of the Orient Station for good messes of blacks. Bigger boats on Sunday caught some blues in the stiff northwester. There's a few bass coming through the Gut now and also along the north shore of Plum Island.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle Center reported some nice bluefishing still available in the Sound. Fish are going 8 to 14 lbs., with an occasional biggy thrown in like the 19½ lbr caught last week by Tom Naugles. The only bass weighed in were two small schoolies taken in the Sound. Fellows fishing Plum Gut reported slow going. Surfcasters are taking some blues on chunks fished on the bottom and are plugging some fish at dawn and dusk. Blackfishing is going strong and there are still porgies here and there.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★ BLACKFISH

ROCKY POINT

Fishing Stop reports 8-13 lb. bluefish along the beach at Shoreham on bunker chunks. Some bigger fish are mixed in as demonstrated by Joe Cellentano's 20 pounder weighed in over the weekend.

MT. SINAI HBR.

At **Ralph's Fishing Station**, there was word of good blackfishing at Mt. Misery Shoals on green crabs. Fish are running up to 10 lbs. In the harbor, small porgies and flatties up to 1 lb. are taking worm bait.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reported still good assortment of blues by buoy 11. Your best bet is diamond jigging with single hook jigs. Blackfishing is going strong at Crane's Neck and east to Wading River. Porgies are about done for the year. There's probably some bass in the area, but no one seems willing to go out and freeze trying to catch one.

KINGS PARK

Mae's Way Fishing Station reports on Wednesday, Jerry Koliner and Bill Olsen took 9 blackfish off the oil dock at Lilco. These fish averaged 3 lbs. each taken on green crab. On Friday, Joe Sewell of Kings Park took 3 bass and 5 blues on poppers off the Sunken Meadow jetty. On Friday night, John, Randy and Laura had a nice selection of 40 lbs. of porgies, 9 bluefish and 2 blackfish at the Mansion.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnies Bait and Tackle said that Sunday afternoon, Jerry Hautman and 3 friends had 8 blacks to 5 lbs. at Target Rock and 5 blues to 19 lbs. in Huntington Harbor. Blues in the a.m. at Buoy 15 and the Obstruction buoy diamond jigging and on umbreallas. Blacks at Target Rock, Marshall Field and Buoy 11B on green crabs and fiddlers. Small flounders on sandworms in the bay and harbor. Some bass being worm trolled at Marshall Field and the Cold Spring Harbor Causeway.

Four Winds Bait and Tackle weighed up some monster blues over the weekend. Robert Johnson led the way with a 19 lb. 14 oz. alligator. Lester Ecker and Johnathan Kitzen followed close behind with giants of 19.14 and 19.5 respectfully. The fish are in Huntington Harbor and Northport Bay and hitting bunker, poppers, and Danny plugs. Danny Rizzo had a blue of 16½ lbs. on a diamond jig in Huntington Inlet on Saturday. Flounder are everywhere and it looks like a good fall run has developed. They are running anywhere from ½ to 1 lb. in weight. Blacks at Eaton's Neck between buoys 13 and 11B on fiddlers and green crabs. Nice size porgies at Marshall Field on worms and bass in the Eaton's Neck Rips. Diamond jigs effective at daybreak while bucktails wirelined later in the day produce fish.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★ BLACKFISH

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Tackle Shop reported lots of blacks in all the usual spots. All the City Island boats are now fishing for blacks. A good run of butterfish now going on. Best bet is to use a piece of worm to catch a bergall, then slice a piece off the side, then use that as bait for the butterfish. Two kids caught 112 between them in one day using that method. Still blues around but not many people are out after them. One porgy fisherman had a blue bitten in half as he was reeling it in. Still school bass at Hart's Island, but no big fish.

Mrs. Winnie Ferrara boated this big humpback porgy on her husband Joe's City Island Party boat, "Ebb Tide."

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	10:31	10:57	11:24	11:49	11:21	11:48	—	12:09	2:00	2:02	1:46	2:02	10:29	10:50	10/12
FRI.	11:13	11:44	—	12:10	—	12:07	12:41	12:55	2:30	2:34	2:32	2:46	11:14	11:38	10/13
SAT.	11:58	—	12:37	12:57	12:36	12:54	1:31	1:45	3:07	3:15	3:19	3:35	—	12:04	10/14
SUN.	12:33	12:45	1:27	1:48	1:27	1:42	2:25	2:37	3:46	3:57	4:08	4:25	12:30	12:54	10/15
MON.	1:22	1:34	2:23	2:43	2:18	2:32	3:26	3:36	4:37	4:50	4:59	5:18	1:24	1:50	10/16
TUE.	2:16	2:29	3:23	3:43	3:09	3:23	4:25	4:34	5:45	5:53	5:54	6:13	2:22	2:47	10/17
WED.	3:13	3:25	4:22	4:41	4:06	4:19	5:21	5:32	7:27	7:33	6:47	7:07	3:21	3:43	10/18
THUR.	4:12	4:24	5:16	5:32	5:01	5:15	6:09	6:21	8:23	8:38	7:39	8:00	4:15	4:36	10/19

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide , add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R. I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	— 9
Mamaroneck	— 3
New Rochelle	4
Davids Island	2

On B'WATER HE.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

10/3	6:59	6:39
10/8	7:04	6:30
10/13	7:10	6:22
10/18	7:16	6:14
10/23	7:21	6:07
10/28	7:27	6:00

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
10/2	10/9	10/16	10/24

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	7:35	1:50	8:00	2:10
Fri.	8:25	2:40	8:50	3:05
Sat.	9:20	3:35	9:45	4:00
Sun.	10:15	4:25	10:35	4:50
Mon.	11:05	5:10	11:20	5:40
Tues.	11:55	6:05	—	6:30
Wed.	12:10	6:50	12:45	7:10
Thurs.	12:50	7:30	1:25	7:50